

Catholic Church's "can of worms"

Page 3

Jack O'Sullivan on Donna Karan

Page 17



THE INDEPENDENT

3,097

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 1996

WEATHER Sunny spells, light winds

50p (inc GST)

Tory victory? Norma's not so certain

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister's "secret weapon" has backfired in spectacular fashion, as his wife Norma Major reveals in today's *Independent*, that she expects Labour to win the next election. In an interview, she is asked by John Walsh if she has any advice for Cherie Booth, wife of Labour leader Tony Blair, on the role of Prime Minister's wife. She replies: "Oh, I wouldn't presume. I think we all have to make of this job what we can. But I've no brief. She'll do it her way."

Mr Walsh says he has checked his tape recording again and again, and there is no doubt that she says "She'll" and not "She'd".

Mrs Major's admission will be particularly embarrassing for her husband because Conservative strategists earlier this month announced that she would have a higher profile in the run-up to the election.

Officials at Tory Central Office briefed selected journalists on Tory newspapers that she was regarded as "an asset", and contrasted her with Ms Booth, a successful barrister and QC, whose image was said to be less voter-friendly.

But she and John Major are believed to have been irritated with Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, about the

way newspapers were encouraged to report the fact that she would be at the Prime Minister's side during his pre-election tours.

In today's interview, she dismisses the fashion for American political wives to play a front-line campaign role as "tacky".

Both Elizabeth Dole and Hillary Clinton paid fulsome tribute to their husbands at their respective party conventions in the United States last month. Asked if she could see herself doing that, she replies: "No, I couldn't do that! I wouldn't do that, no matter what the pressure, I think it's so tacky."

She and Ms Booth have both adopted higher-profile public roles recently. Last weekend Mrs Major gave a rare television interview, seen as part of the plan to project her during the pre-election campaign, in which she nevertheless rejected the description of her in some of the tabloids as the "Tories' secret weapon".

Ms Booth, meanwhile, is guest editor of the mass-market monthly magazine *Prima* in which she reveals a few carefully-chosen secrets of the Blair household, such as the fact that she is a "keen knitter" and that her husband "knows where the washing machine is".

Ms Booth has herself been criticised by the Tory press for some of her political state-

ments. In February this year, she was attacked for telling a Society of Labour Lawyers reception that Lord Irvine of Lairg, Labour's legal affairs spokesman in the House of Lords, would definitely be in her husband's Cabinet. "One thing you can be sure of, Lord Irvine will be the next Lord Chancellor," she said.

Mrs Major has played an uncertain supporting role to the Prime Minister, ever since he was suddenly elevated to succeed Margaret Thatcher in 1990.

It was widely speculated that she was unhappy with the pressures that would be put on her family, and she refused to move into Downing Street, preferring to stay at their Huntingdon home.

In her interview she also expresses her admiration for Clement Attlee, the postwar Labour Prime Minister, about whom she has written in her book.

When asked if she would miss 10 Downing Street she initially says "we'll cross that bridge when we come to it", and then, "we're not planning for it just yet."

But then she appears to allow her assumptions about her husband's political future to show through, just as her body language on the steps of Downing Street seemed to give away her reluctance to be there six years ago.

'I think we all have to make of this job what we can ... She'll do it her way'
— Norma Major. Who is she talking about?



Cherie Blair, actually

Behind this bland facade lies the HQ of Britain's most powerful mafia

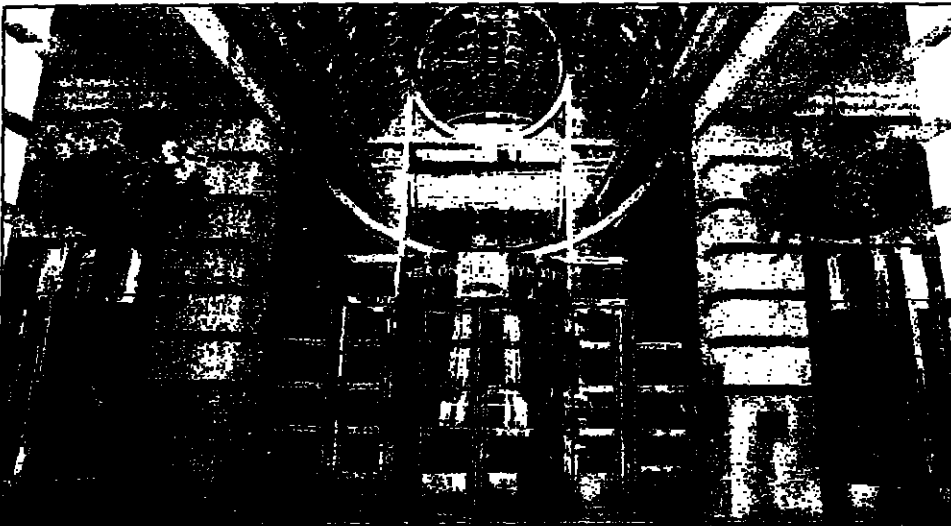
CHRIS BLACKHURST

If, as expected, Archie Norman, head of the Asda supermarket chain and now the prospective candidate for the safe seat of Tunbridge Wells, makes it to a future Conservative Cabinet, he will find himself among friends, not just at No 10 but in virtually every other part of the Establishment.

Once, the route to power was via Eton and the Guards. Today, it is McKinsey, a firm of American management consultants, based in Jermyn Street, in the West End of London, and a mafia-like network at the top of British life.

McKinsey breeds its own priesthood, its own sense of togetherness. McKinsey graduates tend to talk the same language, think the same thoughts, share the same beliefs. Leaks are unheard of, disaffections a rarity. Bonded by adversity — they are often unpopular with the junior management of the corporations they are studying — they work together, play together and often marry each other.

That spirit stays with them, when they are finally lured away on huge salaries to run a company or public institution. The trust and belonging remain. Recent beneficiaries of the



The men from McKinsey's

Norman Blackwell, head of No 10 Policy Unit
Adair Turner, new director-general of the CBI
Sir John Banham, former D-G of the CBI
Howard Davies, ex-CBI chief and now deputy governor of the Bank of England
Don Cruickshank, Ofcom regulator
Peter Ford, chairman of London Transport
William Hague, Welsh Secretary

Archie Norman, chief executive of Asda and aspiring Tory MP
Bob Worcester, chairman of MORI
Stephen Brandon, director, British Gas
Jonathan Fry, managing-director, Burmah Castrol
George Feiger, head of investment banking, SBC Warburg

firm's advice — with echoes of John Gresham, it is referred to internally as *The Firm* — include the Tate galleries, BBC, Kingfisher and British Airways. For those and many other organi-

memberships of what is fast becoming the best-connected club in Britain is mind-bogglingly difficult. At job interviews this year, star graduates from the world's best business schools were asked questions like: you have just discovered a microbe that can reduce the water content of potatoes by 1 per cent — what is its economic value? Or, how many tonnes of tortilla are eaten in Mexico each year?

Would-be recruits for the £58,000-a-year junior consultant posts are put through six separate formal interviews and six quasi-sessions with staffers up to senior partner rank. McKinsey operates an "up or out" policy. If they are not promoted, they will be shown the door.

But even ex-McKinsey employees will automatically be listed in a directory circulated among the firm's old boys and girls. The volume is one of the most exclusive networking books in the world, containing the home addresses and phone numbers of the 3,500 people who once worked for McKinsey.

A guide to the sort of people they were looking for can be gleaned from their emphasis on numeracy and a serious approach to life. Laugh when they asked about Mexican tortillas and you had not a hope.

Labour drops over-16 benefit

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

Labour yesterday abandoned for the first time its support for the principle of flat-rate state benefits paid regardless of people's income, in a significant step towards greater targeting of welfare spending.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, announced that a Labour government would take away child benefit from better-off mothers of sixth-formers and pay more to mothers on lower incomes.

The conclusion of Labour's controversial review of child benefit for the 16-18 age group fell some way short of making "tough choices" about the welfare state, as Mr Brown claimed when it was launched four months ago.

But it represents an important victory for the shadow Chancellor, according to his supporters, who say he is determined to challenge "old shibboleths of the left" about how to achieve a fairer society.

Child benefit between the ages of 16 and 18 is not strictly a "universal" benefit, because it is only paid to the mothers of young people in full-time education — about half the age group.

The shadow Chancellor was joined yesterday by David Blunkett, education and employment spokesman, and Harriet Harman, social security spokeswoman, to launch jointly the plan — *Equipping Young People for the Future* — which was presented as redistributing resources from rich to poor, with the objective of encouraging more young people to stay on in full-time education.

Child benefit for the 16-18 age group would continue to be paid to parents, but would be renamed an "education allowance" and restricted to "middle and lower-income families". In addition, some low-income families would receive it at a higher rate.

Mr Brown refused to give any details of the income levels above or below which support would be affected, but he made it clear that millionaires would not receive the allowance: "I cannot justify a situation where, if I represent the hard-working taxpayers of this country, the son or daughter of a millionaire who sends his or her child to Eton or to another private school can claim child benefit when half of the rest of the children in the country, half of the rest of the mothers of teenagers do not receive it," he said.

QUICKLY

Willie Carson hurt
The jockey Willie Carson, 53, was rushed to hospital after being kicked and badly hurt by his mount Meshed in the paddock at Newbury racecourse. Page 25

Bulgaria's curse
The curse of the poisoned umbrella returned to Bulgaria after the country's top diplomat to the UN accused his government of deploying dirty tricks against opponents similar to those allegedly used against former dissidents. Page 12

CONTENTS

Section 1	
BUSINESS & CITY	19-22
COMMENT	13-17
FOREIGN NEWS	9-12
GAZETTE	18
HOME NEWS	2-8
LEADING ARTICLES	13
LETTERS	13
SATURDAY STORY	16
SPORT	23-28
Section 2	
BOOKS	5-8
COUNTRY	13
RADIO & TV	27-28
SHOPPING	10-11
TRAVEL	14-18



From October 1st, Virgin Drive Thru Check In.

Upper Class From October 1st your chauffeur will check you in from the limo, then drop you off at passport control. Call 01293 747 500 or your travel agent. virgin atlantic

INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY
Buy it
half-price
tomorrow
and read...

The price of fame
Phil Collins: an 'ordinary bloke' gives a revealing interview



All over now?
Neal Ascherson on the century's love affair with socialism



Anna Ford
A profile of the interviewer who enraged the Tories

INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY
half-price tomorrow 50p

To the Reader: Hand this voucher to the nearest retailer with a copy of the Independent on Sunday 22 September 1996 and pay only 50p (Home delivery customers have until 20 October 1996 to present this voucher to your nearest retailer).

To the Retailer: Please accept this voucher as part payment for the Independent on Sunday 22 September 1996 (reader pays 50p). To receive your normal terms plus a 2p handling fee, please provide your wholesaler's name and your box no. and return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 23 October 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer - it is valid for the Independent on Sunday only.

Other valid UK, ROL, Channel Isles & Isle of Man only.

9 506480 100500

THE INDEPENDENT
on Monday
only 10p

To the Reader: Hand this voucher to the nearest retailer with a copy of The Independent on Monday 23 September 1996 and pay only 10p (Home delivery customers have until 21 October 1996 to present this voucher to your nearest retailer).

To the Retailer: Please accept this voucher as part payment for The Independent on Monday 23 September 1996 (reader pays 10p). To receive your normal terms plus a 2p handling fee, please provide your wholesaler's name and your box no. and return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 23 October 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer - it is valid for The Independent only.

Other valid UK, ROL, Channel Isles & Isle of Man only.

9 506480 120300

significant shorts

Labour takes the heat over out-of-town shopping

A leading countryside group attacked the Labour Party last night after its front-bench spokesman, Keith Vaz, said the party was more in favour of out-of-town shopping developments than the Government.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) criticised a speech made by Mr Vaz at a planning conference in Canary Wharf, east London, saying its tone was "disturbing". Mr Vaz told an audience of planners, politicians and developers that the out-of-town supermarkets were innovative, exciting and "the best in the world". He added that Whitehall should not stand in the way of "this retail revolution". Neil Sinden, of the CPRE, promised the council would fight "tooth and nail" any attempt by a Labour government to relax restrictions on new out-of-town retail developments.

Nicholas Schoon

IRA bomb's aftershock hits bus services

One of Britain's biggest bus companies, Greater Manchester Buses North, has blamed the effects of the IRA bomb in Manchester three months ago for its decision to scrap 85 routes by the end of the month, saying the bomb has deterred passengers from travelling into the devastated city centre, making the routes uneconomic.

Joe Clarke, chairman of the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority, which reacted angrily to the move, said it would affect half-a-million journeys a year.

Patrick Toher

Man cleared of Aids threat to Sainsbury

Lee Ellison, 21, from Witham, in Essex, was cleared at the Old Bailey yesterday of taking part in an alleged £100,000 plot to blackmail supermarket giant Sainsbury's with a threat to contaminate food with Aids-infected blood.

Pensioner dies after rape

A 73-year-old woman died after she was raped as she walked through her home village yesterday. The pensioner, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was dragged along a footpath and assaulted as she walked in Tetney, Lincolnshire, shortly before 9am. The police, who are appealing for witnesses, described her attacker as stout, between 39 and 40, and wearing a dark jumper and jeans.

Out-of-work sales director hitches a job

A redundant sales director's bid to find a job by standing at a roadside with a placard has paid off. After two weeks with his poster saying "I need a job", Roy Smith, 49, has been taken on by the AST Group in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, as an international sales manager.



Fair cop: A 1950s police phone box being added to the National Telephone Kiosk Collection at the Avoncroft Museum in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, yesterday. Photograph: Newsteam

Major rejects fury over BSE cull 'U-turn'

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

John Major yesterday ignored a storm of European protest over the Government's decision to abandon its undertaking to slaughter extra cattle, arguing an end to "hysteria" over BSE.

Ministers decided on Thursday to shelve the deal agreed with other EU countries at the Florence summit in June, after Conservative MPs said they would not support the cull order in a Commons vote.

The Prime Minister, in his Huntingdon constituency, denied Britain had turned up the Florence deal: "It was perfectly clear within the Florence agreement that if new evidence arose, we had to consider that evidence. In this country, confidence has been restored a good deal more quickly than in many other countries in Europe, so I hope people can push aside some of the hysteria that we have heard."

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said the decision was "not acceptable", and Klaus Hänsch, president of the European Parliament, said it would be better for Britain to quit the EU altogether if it would not respect joint decisions. Mr Kinkel said: "The main priority is the health of the consumer. The ban on importing British cattle, beef and other products will remain in force."

Mr Hänsch said: "If the British abandon the Union's internal solidarity, when they don't respect decisions taken together, then they do not belong in the Union."

Philippe Vasseur, the French Agriculture Minister, said: "The unilateral decision... can only be met with perplexity by other European countries." Border controls to keep out British beef could be tightened, he added.

Irish reaction was equally robust. John Donnelly, president of the Irish Farmers Association, called the move "a major political blunder". It was "an absolute disgrace that Britain, which created the BSE problem, was deciding not to co-operate with the slaughter policy. The UK government seems to be playing politics with the livelihoods of farmers right across the EU."

At the Florence summit Britain agreed to slaughter an extra 147,000 younger cattle as part of a programme leading to

the lifting of the ban on the export of British beef. As a result of the deal, Mr Major called off his campaign to use the British veto to block EU business.

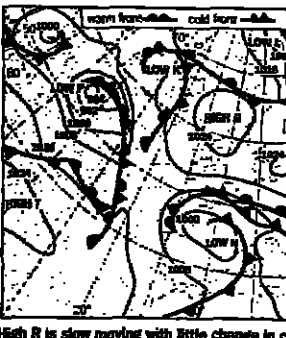
Yesterday he denied the "beef war" had been in vain but appeared to accept Britain would have to start from square one to negotiate another deal to get the ban lifted.

The November target Mr Major set after Florence for the lifting of the ban now stands no chance of being met, and the European Commission expects it to last several years.

But EU officials held out an olive branch yesterday, saying they would consider lifting the ban on Britain's proven BSE-free, grass-fed herds, found mainly in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Weather forecast

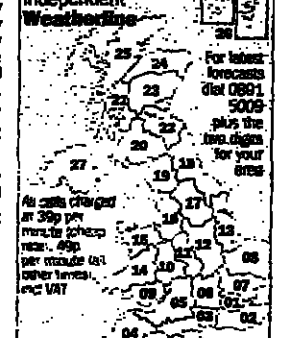
NOON FORECAST



FORECAST: Most of Scotland and N. Ireland will stay dry with sunny spells and a moderate easterly breeze, but the Northern Isles may be misty while showers affect the southeast. England and Wales will be mainly dry with some sunbursts, but there may be a few showers, especially to the south and east, while everywhere gets a cool wind from the northwest.

OUTLOOK: Sunday will see more fine weather across the UK while the wind becomes lighter, but the southeast will keep a brisker northerly wind and a few showers. Most places will be fine and dry during Monday while the showers in the southeast should be more scattered, but westerly winds will bring spells of rain to all areas during Tuesday and Wednesday.

Independent Weathermap



WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY (GMT): Cloudy, fair, fog, rain, sun, snow, sunny, th, shower, previous day's figure at local time. Information by The Met Office.

Area	C	F	Area	C	F	Area	C	F
London	13.5	56.3	Madrid	12.2	54.0	Paris	12.5	54.5
Aberdeen	10.5	50.9	Cardiff	12.5	54.5	Manchester	12.5	54.5
Belfast	10.5	50.9	Edinburgh	12.5	54.5	Sheffield	12.5	54.5
Birmingham	12.5	54.5	Glasgow	12.5	54.5	Stockholm	12.5	54.5
Bristol	12.5	54.5	Liverpool	12.5	54.5	Warsaw	12.5	54.5
Cardiff	12.5	54.5	Newcastle	12.5	54.5	Vienna	12.5	54.5
Canterbury	12.5	54.5	Nottingham	12.5	54.5	Zurich	12.5	54.5
Exeter	12.5	54.5	Sheff	12.5	54.5	Amsterdam	12.5	54.5
Gloucester	12.5	54.5	Southampton	12.5	54.5	Berlin	12.5	54.5
Leamington	12.5	54.5	Wolverhampton	12.5	54.5	Brussels	12.5	54.5
Leeds	12.5	54.5	Wrexham	12.5	54.5	Copenhagen	12.5	54.5
Lincoln	12.5	54.5	Wye	12.5	54.5	Helsinki	12.5	54.5
Liverpool	12.5	54.5	Wye	12.5	54.5	Oslo	12.5	54.5
Manchester	12.5	54.5	Wye	12.5	54.5	Stockholm	12.5	54.5
Nottingham	12.5	54.5	Wye	12.5	54.5	Warsaw	12.5	54.5
Sheff	12.5	54.5	Wye	12.5	54.5	Vienna	12.5	54.5
Southampton	12.5	54.5	Wye	12.5	54.5	Zurich	12.5	54.5
Wolverhampton	12.5	54.5	Wye	12.5	54.5	Amsterdam	12.5	54.5
Wrexham	12.5	54.5	Wye	12.5	54.5	Berlin	12.5	54.5
Wye	12.5	54.5	Wye	12.5	54.5	Brussels	12.5	54.5

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

Location	7.00pm to	6.47am
London	7.00pm	6.47am
Bristol	7.00pm	6.54am
Birmingham	7.00pm	6.54am
Manchester	7.00pm	6.55am
Newcastle	7.07pm	6.52am
Glasgow	7.13pm	7.03am
Belfast	7.24pm	7.10am

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	PM
London	07.38	18.13
Liverpool	07.38	18.13
Southampton	07.38	18.13
Weymouth	07.38	18.13
Wexford	07.38	18.13
Wexford	07.38	18.13

AIR QUALITY

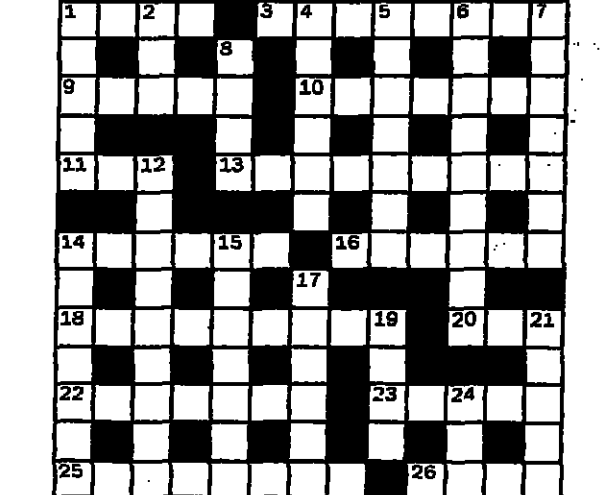
Location	Good	Bad
London	Good	Good
Birmingham	Good	Good
Manchester	Good	Good
Newcastle	Good	Good
Glasgow	Good	Good
Belfast	Good	Good

Outlook for Today

Location	Good	Bad
London	Good	Good
Birmingham	Good	Good
Manchester	Good	Good
Newcastle	Good	Good
Glasgow	Good	Good
Belfast	Good	Good

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3098 Saturday 21 September By Spurlis



ACROSS

- 1. Appear (4)
- 3. Mirth (8)
- 9. Presage (5)
- 10. Surgeon's knife (7)
- 11. Coniferous tree (3)
- 13. Diocesan church (9)
- 14. Harm (6)
- 16. Be socially suitable (6)
- 18. Ignition requisite (5,4)
- 20. Thus, as printed (3)
- 22. Back (7)
- 23. Story with moral (5)
- 25. Beat soundly (8)
- 26. Look lewdly at (4)

DOWN

- 1. Muffler (5)
- 2. Ovary (3)
- 4. Small pictures (6)
- 5. The world of learning (7)
- 6. Overbearing (9)
- 7. Seasonal cake (4,3)
- 8. Boy's name (4)
- 12. Motorised smash-and-grab thief (3-6)
- 14. Lineage (7)
- 15. Racing vehicles (2-5)
- 17. Swindle (6)
- 19. Present (4)
- 21. French pancake (5)
- 24. Container (3)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1. Baffle, 4. Kiosk, 9. Raincoat, 10. Lard, 11. Herring, 13. Rectory, 14. Harm, 16. Decent, 18. Spark, 20. Thus, 22. Back, 23. Story, 25. Beat, 26. Look. DOWN: 1. Muffler, 2. Ovary, 4. Small pictures, 5. The world of learning, 6. Overbearing, 7. Seasonal cake, 8. Boy's name, 12. Motorised smash-and-grab thief, 14. Lineage, 15. Racing vehicles, 17. Swindle, 19. Present, 21. French pancake, 24. Container.

Something worth talking about.

Contact your local travel agent or call for details on
0345-554554

British Midland The Airline for Europe

Return fare from London Heathrow. Available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel must include a Saturday night stay. Passenger taxes £40.

Notes

AMSTERDAM from £69 RTN

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO INVESTORS

With effect from 1 October 1996, the low balance charge of £3 per quarter, payable if an investment balance falls below £50 for six or more consecutive days, will be withdrawn.

Charges incurred during the period 1 July to 30 September 1996 will be made in the usual way on 15 October 1996.

NORTHERN ROCK

Northern Rock Building Society, Principal Office
Northern Rock House, Godalming, Surrey, GU8 4PL

Arandal
crisis for

Catholics contemplate can of worms

ANDREW BROWN

The "can of worms" that is the Bishop Wright scandal may hold further unpleasant surprises, a leading Scottish Catholic warned yesterday. The Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, the Most Rev Keith O'Brien, was speaking after revelations that Bishop Roderick Wright, who last week fled from his post accompanied by

woman. The cardinal said he could no longer remember the name of the woman in question, but that when he confronted Bishop Wright, "We received a categorical denial, and a guarantee that not only was it untrue, but it was scurrilous."

The cardinal said in interviews with the Scottish media that now he felt "doubly abandoned ... betrayed and let down" by Bishop Wright. But there had been nothing the Church could do in the face of his denials.

Bishop Wright was known to have been reluctant to take up his post as Bishop of Argyll and the Isles when promoted six years ago. Cardinal Winning said yesterday: "I knew he had very serious misgivings, even before his ordination."

"Given the background, I don't think anybody in their senses would have done it."

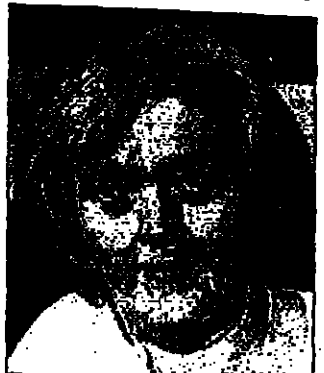
But, he said, "I'm concerned more today about the people who have suffered as a result of this, beginning with the mother and child ... the families of the bishop and the family of Kathleen MacPhee. I'm concerned about the morale of our priests, who feel tainted by what has happened."

Attention now focused on the possibility that Church funds may have been used to support Joanne Whitley, 48, the mother of Bishop Wright's son Kevin. When the Bishop of Galway, the Rt Rev Eamon Casey, was discovered to have a 17-year-old son four years ago, he turned out to have paid £70,000 in support from a secret diocesan fund over the child's lifetime.

However, Church sources maintained that the £2,000 cheque which Ms Whitley recently received from the bishop was the fruits of an insurance policy he had taken out when their child was born.

Ms Whitley spent yesterday under siege from more than 30 journalists and photographers at her Sussex home. She suggested that the Church set up a telephone hot line for women who had had children by priests, rather than waiting for the media to flush them out.

A support group for priests who resigned their ministry to marry said that they were still not allowed to advertise their presence in the official Catholic Directory, despite being led to believe by Cardinal Basil Hume that this would be possible 18 months ago.



Under siege: Joanna Whitley (above) and her 15-year-old son by Bishop Wright (below)



one woman, Kathleen MacPhee, and then turned out to have a 15-year-old son by another, Joanna Whitley, had also been accused three years ago of a relationship with a third, whose name the Archbishop of Glasgow has forgotten.

Dr O'Brien said yesterday: "There's always the possibility of other revelations. This Roderick Wright has had a weakness with regard to sexuality. When one opens a can of worms, one just doesn't realise what's at the bottom of it."

Cardinal Thomas Winning, the leader of the Catholic Church in Scotland, also revealed yesterday that he and a "junior colleague" had questioned Bishop Wright, 56, three years ago about allegations that he had had an affair with a



Keeping the faith: At prayer in Westminster Cathedral yesterday where churchgoers were adamant over the need for Catholic priests to remain celibate

Photograph: Brian Harris

Communicants convinced by need for celibacy

CLARE GARNER

The priest who celebrated Holy Mass at Westminster Cathedral yesterday lunchtime spoke of the "body blow" dealt to the Roman Catholic Church by the scandal surrounding Bishop Roderick Wright, and prayed for the mother and son.

Rather Daniel Cronin, chancellor of the central London diocese, said: "No one in the cathedral today can be unaware of the body blow we have all received as further revelations

were disclosed yesterday. Our hearts and sympathy went out to mother and son who have been betrayed and badly treated."

Father Cronin described Bishop Wright as a "shepherd [who had] wandered out into the mist" and called on his congregation not to "recriminate or throw stones". "Neither is it a time to lose our nerve in any way," he added.

Certainly, none of his congregation had lost their nerve about the validity of the celibacy law. Parishioners felt that un-

der no circumstances should the rule be relaxed and provided a number of reasons why.

Tim Cox, 59, a commodity trader, said: "The fact that one man or several men or as many men as it takes make mistakes or don't come up to expectations doesn't mean to say the expectations shouldn't be there any more ... I don't personally feel that a married priest can give what's the jargon phrase? - good, quality time to his parish."

Peter Hancock, 64, described himself as a "good, obedient"

Catholic. "I'm totally in favour of priests and celibacy, totally opposed to the Pill and totally support the present Pope and his views," he said. "Look at the example of Christ and his apostles. They were celibate."

William Arbuckle, 36, believed Bishop Wright's case was an exception for which the Church cannot accept responsibility. "If one guy in the City decides to get into fraud you can't blacklist his whole family ... It's the same with politics. You can't hold a party responsible for

one member's outspoken views. Likewise, the Catholic Church can't be held responsible for one person's actions."

Others felt the Church would lose its identity if it broke with the tradition of celibacy. Bill White, 39, said: "We don't believe in our ministers having children and getting married and that sort of thing. It's the identity of the Church. It could go further. The nuns in the convents - should they be celibate?"

Frances Ode-Sarpong, who is in her 40s, said celibacy was "a

good way to surrender yourself to Christ". "He [Christ] never slept with anyone. If you want to follow his footsteps I think you have to be celibate. It's compulsory ... If you're weak you don't have to take up the priesthood. They know what they are letting themselves in for and they aren't forced to do it."

A nun expressed her exasperation, saying she had "had enough". "As soon as anybody falls it hits the headlines. Go and look at the thousands and thousands who don't."

A scandal for one man, but crisis for the church? No



PAUL VALLELY

So now the Roman Catholic Church has been "plunged into deep crisis" by the news that one of its bishops has fathered a child. Not embroiled in a juicy scandal, you notice, but plunged into a deep crisis.

The quotation comes from one of yesterday's broadsheet newspapers. "Mother rocks Catholic church," screeched another. "The Roman Catholic church stands accused of hypocrisy," pontificated a third. We need not concern ourselves with the tabloid verdicts.

There is no doubt that a celibate bishop with a 15 year old child is a great story. But what impels people to elevate it to the level of an institutional crisis?

Contrary to what most commentators insist Catholicism is not "in turmoil" over this sad case. The Church is a body with a clear code of rules. One of its leading figures has broken the rules. The result may be a scandal, but the errant behaviour of one bishop is hardly, by any stretch of the imagination, a crisis.

There will be those who will protest it is not just one. There was in 1992 the former bishop of Galway, Eamon Casey, who had been dipping into diocesan funds for 17 years to support his illegitimate child.

Just last year was the Swiss bishop Hans-Joerg Vogel who was discovered to have a girlfriend he had made pregnant. There have been a couple of others. But that is out of a total of out of 3,292 bishops throughout the church. All this is small beer.

Through almost 2,000 years the Catholic Church has weathered all manner of sexual scandal. Several popes installed their mistresses in the Vatican. Homosexual popes made carnals of their catamites, charges of incest, rape,



Cesare Borgia, who was made a cardinal by his father, Pope Alexander VI, with his sister Lucrezia. He presided over 50 naked prostitutes in the Joust of the Whores. From Sex Lives of the Popes, by Nigel Cawthorne (Prion Books) / Mary Evans Picture Library

sodomy, bestiality have dogged the papacy over the centuries. Despite all this the Church has survived as one of history's most robust institutions.

But there is something in the modern mindset which is unable to distinguish between individuals and institutions. We have an incorrigible tendency to extrapolate the universal from the particular. The hypocrisy of an individual cleric does not constitute the hypocrisy of a church.

The same failure in metaphysical imagination is evident in our inability to separate the shortcomings of individual members of the royal family from the constitutional role the monarchy plays in our polity.

Just because a churchman has broken the rules does not mean

veal the tensions with which it wrestles.

The modern church is divided into two camps. There are those who see the values of the gospel as immutably linked to certain social norms and behaviour. And there are those who see them manifest in changing ways as society changes.

The real debate is thus between absolutists and proportionists, but you are hardly likely to find that straying onto the front pages of the nation's newspapers.

Yet the theological differences are intense and their consequences are profound. They will surface increasingly in two areas - sexual and ecclesiastical.

On the sexual front we can expect increasingly stubborn dissent on the nature of sexuality, largely led by the growing sense that developing thought on gay and lesbian sexuality will slowly alter theological thinking on what it means to be in a loving relationship and what the implications of this are for Christian notions of love.

The Church is already under siege for its old notion, enshrined in Catholic natural law, that sex is only about human reproduction. In recent years it has nuanced the position, but its essence remains. It is on this principle that the papal ban on contraception rests - a ban which lay Catholic society has rejected as it has embraced secular notions that love is about more than reproduction. The Church's position here can only become more untenable.

All this has implications for ecclesiology. It will feed the debates on the role of women in the church and the desirability of married priests. It may make more disgruntled the large numbers of married ex-priests who are presently denied real status by Rome.

These will be the tectonic plates in this classic Conservative versus Liberal struggle. As the pope becomes more ill they will no doubt intensify as thoughts focus on his successor. Then perhaps we might have a real crisis to write about.

FreeCall
0500 500 366

-20%

WHEN YOU ADD MERCURY SMARTCALL.

Simply add Mercury SmartCall to your home phone. Then subtract 20-39% off BT's basic rates for every international call of five minutes or longer that you make between 6pm and 8am weekdays and any time at weekends.

You keep your phone, your number and your BT line. You simply pay a quarterly fee of £5.75 (inc. VAT), then choose which calls to make over Mercury and which to make over BT.

For example, use SmartCall for a five minute economy or weekend call to France, Italy or Germany and you'll save 33% against BT's basic rate. On the same call to the USA, you'll save 29%. In addition, you'll get another 5% off the five national or international numbers you've spent most on that quarter.

So why not multiply your options? To get the figures for your home phone bill, FreeCall 0500 500 366.

TELL ME HOW TO SAVE BIG SUMS ON MY HOME PHONE BILL
For more information, FreeCall 0500 500 366 or post this coupon to Mercury SmartCall, FREEPOST MR 9564, PO Box 49, Wythenshawe, Manchester M22 9GZ.

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms. Initials Surname
Address
Postcode
Tel No. (inc. STD code)

Mercury SmartCall.

You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

Prices and savings correct as at 4 September 1996, compared against BT's basic rate for international calls of 5 minutes or more, four-day weekdays and any time weekends.
http://www.mercury.co.uk

news

Stalker case judge condemns media

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

The sensitivity of the judiciary came to the fore for the second time in weeks yesterday when Judge Quentin Campbell, who presided in the latest "stalking" trial, attacked media reporting of his handling of the case.

Activating the hitherto unused right to issue a statement through the Lord Chancellor's Department, Judge Campbell said he wished to correct "errors of both fact and misrepresentation" in the coverage of the trial of Dennis Chambers, who chose to represent himself and cross-examined his alleged victim, Margaret Bent, in person before being acquitted by a jury.

The judge said that "writer reports, and an artist's impression in Tuesday's edition of the Times, indicated that the defendant was permitted to cross-examine the principal witness from 'within inches'."

"This is incorrect. At all times I was acutely aware of the potential distress that might be caused to this witness and I took steps to ensure that such distress was minimised."

The strongly worded rebuttal follows a similar complaint by Judge Alastair McCallum in July after he was roundly condemned for saying a police officer should have had a "sound ticking off" for indecently

assaulting female colleagues. Judge Campbell's upbraiding of the media appeared to be equally directed to complaints from legal commentators and victims' organisations that he should not have allowed Chambers to leave the dock. It has been argued that this is advantageous to the defendant because it can raise his status in the eyes of the jury and intimidate witnesses.

The judge said the layout of the courtroom made it impractical for Chambers to cross-examine from the dock.

"I therefore arranged for him to sit on the opposite side of the courtroom to the witness box, about 25 feet from the witness. Security officers were positioned between them."

"I ordered him to remain seated so he would appear less intimidating to the witness."

"I permitted the witness to answer the defendant's questions by directing her replies to the jury so that she did not have to look at him during cross-examination. I directly controlled the cross-examination, which lasted for about 30 minutes."

In a reference to his summing-up, the judge added: "I would like to remind the media that as a judge I must operate within the existing law."

"For all these reasons, I believe that the many critical comments which have been levelled against me in the media this week are unjustified."

The judge's attempt to set the record straight raises the issue of the difficulty of representing the configuration of witnesses in a court artist's drawing. But it will not dampen the pressure by organisations such as Victim Support and, latterly, Labour for courts to be empowered to ban suspected sex attackers and stalkers from cross-examining their alleged victims. Janet Anderson, the shadow minister for women, has urged Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to bring in such a reform.



Judge Quentin Campbell: Wanted 'to correct errors'

Jail for bullies who forced boy on spree

Two bullying teenagers were jailed yesterday for snatching a wealthy schoolboy from a street and forcing him to finance their taste for designer clothes, cigarettes and champagne.

Thomas Birkert, an 18-year-old A-level student was kidnapped near his home in Chelsea, west London, and was repeatedly battered around the head during his four-day ordeal.

Sentencing Jay McConnell, 17, and Emmanuel Francis, 20, at the Old Bailey, Recorder Oliver Sells said: "This was not a case of schoolboy bullying which got out of hand. His period of detention must have been as terrifying for him as it must have been for his family."

McConnell, who had been high on drugs and alcohol, had no regard for the schoolboy's suffering, Recorder Sells said, and appeared to relish it. His attitude towards his fellow teenager had been "chilling," said the judge.

"Your behaviour belies your years. You have shown you are capable of enforcing your will on a boy who although much the same age, came from a different and more sheltered background."

He jailed McConnell, of Chelsea, for four and a half years and Francis, of no fixed abode, for three years for false imprisonment, robbery and blackmail. As he was led away, a swaggering McConnell smiled at the public gallery.

Their victim, who had been reduced to a "zombie-like state" during his ordeal last November, had given evidence along with his parents at the trial in July, but none of the family were in court for the sentencing.

Recorder Sells said the public "rightly" expected such offences to be punished with a custodial sentence.

The pair made Mr Birkert buy them designer clothes, cigarettes and bottles of champagne and ordered him to drive them five times along the M3 to

Portsmouth so McConnell could see a girlfriend.

Mr Birkert was intimidated with an air rifle and iron and battered round the head repeatedly while at the mercy of his tormentors.

He was only rescued after he was made to call his mother to ask her to bring more money to a rendezvous to meet their further demands.

Mrs Amanda Birkert immediately alerted police. She was commended by Recorder Sells for her "determination to get the police to take this matter seriously."

Although her son was rescued, his ordeal was not over. McConnell and Francis pleaded not guilty, claiming Mr Birkert had volunteered to go with them, after deciding to taste life on a very different social level to his own.

The schoolboy was forced to relive his experiences at their hands all over again by giving evidence in court.

He faced a barrage of slurs on his character during the trial. The defence claimed he had "played the rich boy, trying to buy friends" while rebelling against a strict mother and a middle-class background.

McConnell accused Mr Birkert of taking drugs, quaffing champagne with them and acting as a hanger-on. "If he wanted to have gone off home, he could," he told the court.

Mr Birkert said the claims are rubbish and said he had felt total joy when rescued. He did not take drugs, smoke, or drink and had more than enough friends of his own to have wanted their company, he said.

Since the trial he has passed his three A levels - but not at the grades he had hoped. He is due to start a degree in French and management next week.

A pupil at Emanuel School, Wandsworth, south-west London, Mr Birkert lived with his mother and grandmother. His parents had separated.

End of the line for our quaintest railway?



Running out of time: The Isle of Wight railway uses old London Underground stock which in the 1960s replaced ancient steam trains, below left.

Second photograph: Milepost



CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

Fears that the smallest and quaintest railway in Britain, the eight-and-a-half-mile Island Line on the Isle of Wight, may be closed were heightened yesterday when it emerged that the new operators have been given only a five-year franchise.

The contract offered to Stagecoach was described by the company as a "time-marking deal" - all other franchises have been for between seven and 15 years.

Visitors to the island are often surprised to find that trains

on the line from Ryde Pier to Shanklin are 55-year-old former London Underground stock rescued from the scrapyard. However, Brian Cox, the Stagecoach director who will chair the company running the line, said yesterday that there were plans for a renaissance of the line, which is all that is left of a much larger network on the island.

"Use of the line has been declining over the years, as has the Isle of Wight," he said. "We plan to increase the number of passengers by offering discounted fares for residents after 10am and by using our other transport

businesses to bring more people on to the island."

Currently, 780,000 people use the line annually, paying £729,000. Stagecoach, which has said that 10 out of the 44 jobs on the line must go, will be given £2m in subsidy in the first year, compared with £2.4m received by British Rail.

Stagecoach beat off competition from several other companies which had plans to refurbish or extend services. Mr Cox said: "This is a time-marking contract, while decisions are made over the future of the line."

Uniquely of all the 25 rail

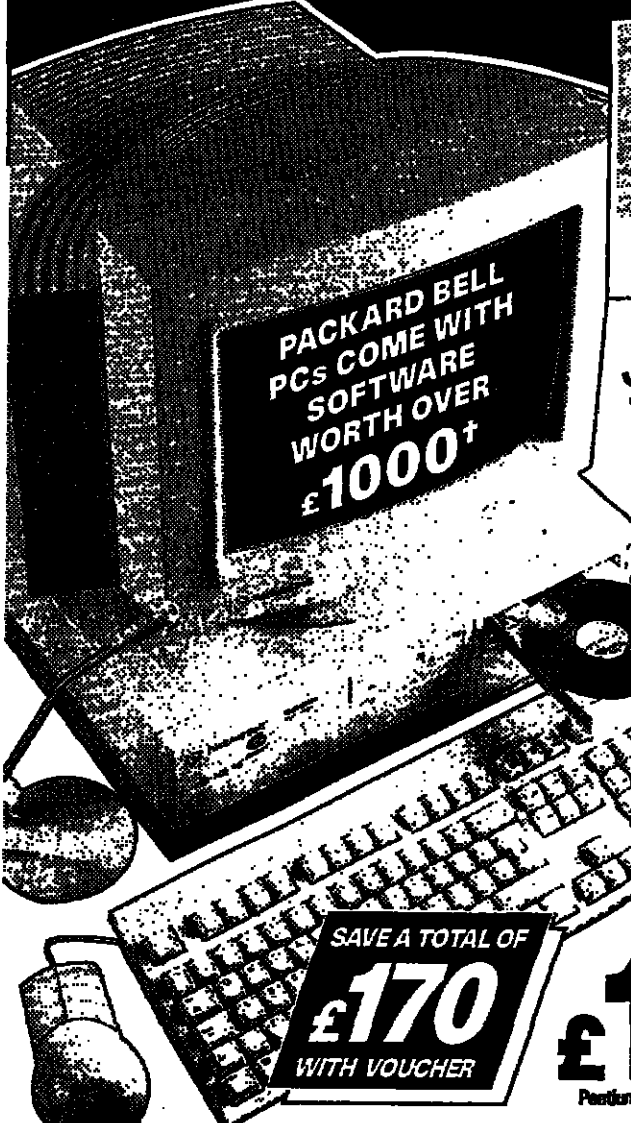
franchises, the Island Line is run as an integrated business with no involvement by Railtrack. Stagecoach will have control of both the track and trains.

Mr Cox promised that the same number of services would be operated over the lifetime of the services and, as with all franchises, Stagecoach will be expected to improve punctuality and reliability.

The franchise is the second to be won by the bus company. It also has control of the much larger South West Trains but will run the two businesses separately. "The Island Line needs a local touch," Mr Cox said.

Dixons

SAVE UP TO £150 ON TOP BRAND PCs



PACKARD BELL
PCs COME WITH
SOFTWARE
WORTH OVER
£1000+

HURRY!
LIMITED
STOCKS

Check your local store for details

Packard Bell

909D P100 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 100MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor

• 8Mb RAM

• 850Mb hard drive

• Quad-speed CD-ROM drive

• 28.8 bps fax modem

• 1Mb video RAM

Was £1599. In-store Price £1449.

SAVE A TOTAL OF £170 WITH VOUCHER

VOUCHER PRICE £1429

Pentium is a trademark of the Intel Corporation

Canon BJC4100 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution • 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono. Was £299.99.

SALE PRICE

£249.99

SAVE £50

ALSO AVAILABLE AS A PC AND PRINTER PACKAGE

PACKARD BELL 909D P100 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC & CANON BJC4100 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

Total Separate Selling Price £1678.99.

SAVE £150 WITH VOUCHER

VOUCHER PRICE £1528

UP TO 9 MONTHS
INTEREST
FREE OPTION¹
ON ALL PCs AND
SELECTED PRINTERS

Account interest free if repaid in full before the 9th monthly payment.
Example: Cash price £2500. 5% deposit, loan amount £2375.
0% OR 27.8%
INTEREST
1. Repay 9 monthly payments of £247.50 and the balance of £2000.00 before the 9th monthly payment.
(Total payable £2375.00 APR 9.9%)
2. 48 monthly payments of £247.50. (Total payable £2375.00 APR 9.9%)
Subject to status, written credit questions available on request from Dept FOM, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts AL2 7TG.

PC & PRINTER
PACKAGES
- SAVE £150

Packard Bell

924C P120 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 120MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 8Mb RAM

• 28.8 bps fax modem • Radio card and remote control

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Packard Bell

918 P133 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 133MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 8Mb RAM • 12Gb hard drive

• 28.8 bps fax modem • 28.8 bps fax modem

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Packard Bell

976 P133 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 133MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive

• 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive • 28.8 bps fax modem

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Packard Bell

976 P133 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 133MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive

• 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive • 28.8 bps fax modem

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Packard Bell

976 P133 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 133MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive

• 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive • 28.8 bps fax modem

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Packard Bell

976 P133 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 133MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive

• 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive • 28.8 bps fax modem

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Packard Bell

976 P133 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 133MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive

• 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive • 28.8 bps fax modem

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Packard Bell

976 P133 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 133MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive

• 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive • 28.8 bps fax modem

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Packard Bell

976 P133 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 133MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive

• 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive • 28.8 bps fax modem

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Packard Bell

976 P133 PENTIUM[®] MULTIMEDIA PC

• 133MHz Intel Pentium[®] processor • 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive

• 16Mb RAM and 2Gb hard drive • 28.8 bps fax modem

£1000 FREE SOFTWARE

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£1648

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£1798

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2198

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2398

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2398

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2398

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2398

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2398

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2398

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2398

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2398

PLUS

Canon BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER

• Up to 3.8 pages per minute • 720x360 dpi resolution

• 100 page sheet feeder

• High quality printing in both colour and mono.

SAVE £150

£2398

PLUS

Chief constable wants safety tests for drugs

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A Dutch system of "safe houses" where illegal drugs are tested for dangerous impurities should be considered in Britain, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Richard Wells, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, called for more radical thinking in trying to reduce the harm that drugs cause.

He suggested that there might be important lessons to learn from the network of centres in the Netherlands known as "safe houses" where people can take ecstasy tablets and for about 80p have them tested to discover whether they have been mixed with other dangerous substances.

Mr Wells said: "This is about making the drugs that people are taking less harmful, in the same way as substituting methadone for heroin, or needle-exchange schemes."

"In Holland people from the drug culture, supported by government funds, go to parties and raves and offer a cheap service for people to test drugs."

"I'm not calling for that in Britain - the Dutch culture is a more progressive culture than ours - but we want to see if it is transferable. We don't know if it will work here, but we need to at least see."

Mr Wells stressed that any scheme would only work if it was part of a "three-pronged" approach to tackling drugs, that included law enforcement to reduce the supply and education to reduce the demand.

Hundreds of thousands of ecstasy tablets are taken - usually at dance raves - every weekend in the United Kingdom. The purity varies tremendously. Substances including amphetamine, heroin, bath scourer and fish-tank cleaner have all been found in tablets.

Such contamination has been blamed for a number of deaths. The issue was highlighted last November by the death of Leah Betts, who took an ecstasy tablet at her 18th birthday party.

The safe-house scheme has two testing systems. Raves can take their ecstasy tablets to the safe-house table inside selected raves and clubs for a two-minute test that costs two

guilders - about 80p.

Ecstasy tablets are also sent to the safe-house headquarters from 15 centres around the Netherlands for testing. The system is used by a wide variety of people from health workers and the police to ecstasy users and worried parents.

Mr Wells denied that considering safe-houses was pandering to the drugs culture.

"It's a practical aim which says, look, we're not going to be able to stop people taking drugs overnight, so let's look at the practical ways in which we deal with it," he said.

Nevertheless his suggestion is bound to provoke strong opposition from some sections of society, particularly the right, who believe that such projects encourage drug-taking.

But Mike Goodman, director of the national drugs advice charity Release, supported the idea. "Many young people in Holland buy two tablets at a time - one to take and one to test," he said. "This is not saying that we should be encouraging the use of drugs - but if people are doing it, there are ways of doing it safely."

Ginger's glamour and glitter seeks asking price



Ginger Rogers (top) wearing the fan-shaped 1940s brooch (above) which will be included in the sale on 3 October



A slice of the Hollywood glamour of Ginger Rogers (pictured above in Vogue) will be auctioned by Christie's in Los Angeles next month. Pieces include a shell watch by Paul Flato with Ginger inscribed on the dial valued at £3,000. Photographs: Courtesy Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences/Ed Vee

100s OF GREAT CLEARANCE BARGAINS
HURRY LIMITED STOCKS

SALE SAVINGS ON PC ACCESSORIES

MICROSOFT

SAVE **£5**
Was £24.99
SALE PRICE **£19.99**

LOGITECH

WINGMAN LIGHT JOYSTICK
SAVE **£5**
Was £24.99
SALE PRICE **£19.99**

PERIPHERIQUE

4MB MEMORY UPGRADE
72 PIN
Was £39.99
SAVE **£20**
SALE PRICE **£19.99**

MOTOROLA

INTERNET SOLUTION MODEM
Connect your PC to the Internet.
Was £149.99
SAVE **£20**
SALE PRICE **£129.99**

REVEAL

5000 SAMPLES
Upgrade your PC sound.
Was £79.99
SAVE **£10**
SALE PRICE **£69.99**

HAYES

ACCUA 164 FAX MODEM
Use your PC for faxing.
Connect to the Internet. Was £149.99
SAVE **£70**
SALE PRICE **£79.99**

GREAT DEALS ON TOP BRAND PRINTERS

LEXMARK 1020

COLOUR INKJET PRINTER
• Up to 3 pages per minute print speed.
• 600 x 600 dpi resolution.
Was £199.99

SAVE **£20**
SALE PRICE **£179.99**

Canon

B1270 COLOUR BUBBLEJET PRINTER
• Up to 2.5 pages per minute.
• 360 x 360 dpi resolution.
• 300 auto sheet feeder.
• Ideal for home use.
Was £199.99

SAVE **£20**
SALE PRICE **£179.99**

Canon

B1270 PORTABLE COLOUR BUBBLEJET PRINTER
• Up to 2.5 pages per minute.
• 360 x 360 dpi resolution.
• 300 auto sheet feeder.
Was £199.99

SAVE **£80**
SALE PRICE **£119.99**

HEWLETT PACKARD

D5800 INKJET PRINTER
• Up to 4 pages per minute print speed.
• 600 x 600 dpi resolution.
• Ideal for home office use.
Was £179.99

SAVE **£20**
SALE PRICE **£159.99**

LEXMARK

W1000 1500 COLOUR INKJET PRINTER
• Up to 3 pages per minute.
• 600 x 600 dpi resolution.
• 300 auto sheet feeder.
Was £249.99

SAVE **£30**
SALE PRICE **£219.99**

HEWLETT PACKARD

6600 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER
• Up to 4 pages per minute.
• 600 x 600 dpi resolution.
• Auto sheet feeder.
Was £259.99

SAVE **£40**
SALE PRICE **£219.99**

SAVE UP TO £170 WITH THIS VOUCHER

Dixons

There's a great deal going on

TEL: 0161-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

Why shouldn't our business leaders be politicians too?

REBECCA FOWLER
and COLIN BROWN

When Archie Norman woke up yesterday morning, the chief executive of Asda, who has been selected as a Tory candidate, apparently asked himself: "What on earth have I done?" He would have been forgiven also for asking: "Why aren't other successful businessmen doing the same thing?"

The answer might lie with the relatively few who have. In truth, they have not had an easy time once they traded in their lucrative chairmanships for seats in the Commons or the

Lords. Since Lord Nolan reported on MPs' activities, they have fallen under fierce scrutiny. Even before that, sacrifices proved too great for some. Lord Gowrie, a leading player in the auction world, gave up his political position under Margaret Thatcher because, he said, he could not live on an MP's salary of £30,000.

For 200 years there has been a traffic between business success and political success on both sides of the benches. For decades, some maintained the most lavish lifestyles. Among the most prominent was Beaverbrook, who made a fortune in cement and then newspapers. His most prominent government post was in Churchill's war cabinet as aircraft-production minister.

Other businessmen found the world of politics did not want to accept them and their political aspirations foundered. Robert Maxwell stood as a Labour candidate after he established his publishing empire in the 1950s but his ego was too big even for Parliament.

For the current generation of millionaire MPs the draw of Parliament is still not straightforward, aside from the obvious attractions of more power and influence. However, it has still proved strong enough for Geoffrey Robinson, former head of Jaguar, and a Labour backbencher and owner of the *New Statesman* who entertained Tony Blair and his family at his home in Tuscany this summer.

Angela Knight, the economics minister, ran her own successful chemical-engineering company before entering politics. It was good preparation: "You can't come out of engineering and be a fragile flower." Among the wealthiest figures on the political stage is Sir James Goldsmith, who started developing his political and economic views a decade ago before setting up the Referendum Party. Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, entered politics after establishing a publishing company that made him a millionaire.

Mr Norman, credited with breathing life back into Asda, has joined a select group of mil-

lionaires who put their power in the City on hold for a place in Parliament. As he left for a weekend in Italy yesterday, he had still not explained the lure of politics, for which he will take a sizeable pay cut.

Instead Mr Norman, 42, who will stand for the safe seat of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, enthused on why businessmen who have run corporations are

so well qualified to help run the country. "It's very unusual to find a successful businessman going into politics now. I think it's a pity because Parliament needs to have people who have experience of the real world of work. Most of my career has been spent in business, where I have spoken with shoppers, housewives and staff. I think I have got an experience of the

real world." The timing of his switch to politics is a tad surprising. He has had his name on the list of potential Tory candidates for 15 years but has chosen to allow it to go forward only at one of the most precarious periods for the Conservative Party. If the Conservatives do hold on to power, he is at least destined for a top job and is expected to become a minister.



Trading places: Archie Norman (top), Angela Knight and Michael Heseltine

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL IB - EXTERNAL RELATIONS
DIRECTORATE FOR LATIN AMERICA

Call for submission of applications under the

alfa Latin America Academic Training

in the following fields:

- Institution-building in higher education
- Cooperation between higher education institutions and industry
- Preparation of undergraduate and post-graduate exchange schemes
- Designing joint research projects
- Mobility of postgraduates
- Mobility of students

Only groups of universities or other higher education institutions may apply

For information and application forms, contact:

BAT/CEEETA

Rue Joseph II / Jozef II straat 36 - 4°
B - 1000 Bruxelles / Brussel
Tel: (322) 219 04 53
Fax: (322) 219 63 84

EC REPRESENTATION IN UNITED KINGDOM

Jean Monnet House
8, Storey's Gate
London SW1P 3AT, United Kingdom
Tel: (441-71) 973 19 92 Fax: (441-71) 973 19 00

Closing date for submission of applications: 31/10/1996

Ashdown's Angels want a two-wheel nation

The Liberal Democrats yesterday made a bold pitch for the Hell's Angel vote with plans to encourage the use of motorcycles, and a call to abolish VAT on tough leather jackets.

David "Easy Rider" Chidgey, previously regarded as one of Westminster's less charismatic politicians, revealed himself as a rebel without a cause in a photo-call with bikers and their bikes outside party HQ.

The Liberal Democrat transport spokesman and MP for Eastleigh had to admit he did not own a bike himself, but praised the "positive contribution" motorcycles can offer in reducing pollution and congestion.

He said the party's plans to cut vehicle excise duty and raise tax on petrol would encourage more people to use "low-polluting, fuel-efficient" motorcycles (and mopeds) as an alternative to cars, especially for commuting.

A consultation paper also called for British Standards for the safety of protective clothing. The proposals included "considering the removal of VAT

John Rentoul on Lib-Dems bid to kick-start cleaner commuting

from items such as leather jackets and gloves if they meet rigorous safety standards", Mr Chidgey said.

He took up a cause close to the heart of better-informed bikers by opposing European Commission plans to reduce the noise limit for motorcycle exhausts from 82 to 80 decibels. The document saw "little point" in further legislation "while existing laws are ineffective", and called for stronger measures to enforce the present limit.

Mr Chidgey, attempting a Marlon Brando smear, dismissed Brussels officialdom: "The European Commission seems obsessed with issuing directives which curtail choice and are potentially harmful to local economies. Their draft directives on motorcycles are a major threat to the UK motorcycle industry and should be sent back

to the drawing board. They should stick to the priorities of their core objectives - the freedom of movement of people, goods and services."

The Liberal Democrats failed to back the full "ride free" manifesto by supporting the law on the compulsory wearing of helmets but adopted a libertarian stance on other middle-aged concerns. Leg protectors, air bags and protective clothing should be "an optional choice for the rider".

Bikers of the world, predictably, united. Neil Liveridge, national chairman of the Motorcycle Action Group, said: "MAG is delighted that a major political party has recognised the essential part which motorcycles have to play in future transport policy."

The RAC said: "The safety and environmental improvements Mr Chidgey argues for will help confirm the motorcycle's role in an integrated transport policy."

Or, as David Steel never said, "Go back to your leathers".



The new Liberal movement: Gladstone's heirs want to be easy riders and give tax breaks on the price of leather jackets. Montage: Mark Hayman

SAVE £100 ON TELEVISIONS
OVER 50 IN-STORE

GOODMANS 17" 14" 16" 18" 20" 22" 24" 26" 28" 30" 32" 34" 36" 38" 40" 42" 44" 46" 48" 50" 52" 54" 56" 58" 60" 62" 64" 66" 68" 70" 72" 74" 76" 78" 80" 82" 84" 86" 88" 90" 92" 94" 96" 98" 100" 102" 104" 106" 108" 110" 112" 114" 116" 118" 120" 122" 124" 126" 128" 130" 132" 134" 136" 138" 140" 142" 144" 146" 148" 150" 152" 154" 156" 158" 160" 162" 164" 166" 168" 170" 172" 174" 176" 178" 180" 182" 184" 186" 188" 190" 192" 194" 196" 198" 200" 202" 204" 206" 208" 210" 212" 214" 216" 218" 220" 222" 224" 226" 228" 230" 232" 234" 236" 238" 240" 242" 244" 246" 248" 250" 252" 254" 256" 258" 260" 262" 264" 266" 268" 270" 272" 274" 276" 278" 280" 282" 284" 286" 288" 290" 292" 294" 296" 298" 300" 302" 304" 306" 308" 310" 312" 314" 316" 318" 320" 322" 324" 326" 328" 330" 332" 334" 336" 338" 340" 342" 344" 346" 348" 350" 352" 354" 356" 358" 360" 362" 364" 366" 368" 370" 372" 374" 376" 378" 380" 382" 384" 386" 388" 390" 392" 394" 396" 398" 400" 402" 404" 406" 408" 410" 412" 414" 416" 418" 420" 422" 424" 426" 428" 430" 432" 434" 436" 438" 440" 442" 444" 446" 448" 450" 452" 454" 456" 458" 460" 462" 464" 466" 468" 470" 472" 474" 476" 478" 480" 482" 484" 486" 488" 490" 492" 494" 496" 498" 500" 502" 504" 506" 508" 510" 512" 514" 516" 518" 520" 522" 524" 526" 528" 530" 532" 534" 536" 538" 540" 542" 544" 546" 548" 550" 552" 554" 556" 558" 560" 562" 564" 566" 568" 570" 572" 574" 576" 578" 580" 582" 584" 586" 588" 590" 592" 594" 596" 598" 600" 602" 604" 606" 608" 610" 612" 614" 616" 618" 620" 622" 624" 626" 628" 630" 632" 634" 636" 638" 640" 642" 644" 646" 648" 650" 652" 654" 656" 658" 660" 662" 664" 666" 668" 670" 672" 674" 676" 678" 680" 682" 684" 686" 688" 690" 692" 694" 696" 698" 700" 702" 704" 706" 708" 710" 712" 714" 716" 718" 720" 722" 724" 726" 728" 730" 732" 734" 736" 738" 740" 742" 744" 746" 748" 750" 752" 754" 756" 758" 760" 762" 764" 766" 768" 770" 772" 774" 776" 778" 780" 782" 784" 786" 788" 790" 792" 794" 796" 798" 800" 802" 804" 806" 808" 810" 812" 814" 816" 818" 820" 822" 824" 826" 828" 830" 832" 834" 836" 838" 840" 842" 844" 846" 848" 850" 852" 854" 856" 858" 860" 862" 864" 866" 868" 870" 872" 874" 876" 878" 880" 882" 884" 886" 888" 890" 892" 894" 896" 898" 900" 902" 904" 906" 908" 910" 912" 914" 916" 918" 920" 922" 924" 926" 928" 930" 932" 934" 936" 938" 940" 942" 944" 946" 948" 950" 952" 954" 956" 958" 960" 962" 964" 966" 968" 970" 972" 974" 976" 978" 980" 982" 984" 986" 988" 990" 992" 994" 996" 998" 1000" 1002" 1004" 1006" 1008" 1010" 1012" 1014" 1016" 1018" 1020" 1022" 1024" 1026" 1028" 1030" 1032" 1034" 1036" 1038" 1040" 1042" 1044" 1046" 1048" 1050" 1052" 1054" 1056" 1058" 1060" 1062" 1064" 1066" 1068" 1070" 1072" 1074" 1076" 1078" 1080" 1082" 1084" 1086" 1088" 1090" 1092" 1094" 1096" 1098" 1100" 1102" 1104" 1106" 1108" 1110" 1112" 1114" 1116" 1118" 1120" 1122" 1124" 1126" 1128" 1130" 1132" 1134" 1136" 1138" 1140" 1142" 1144" 1146" 1148" 1150" 1152" 1154" 1156" 1158" 1160" 1162" 1164" 1166" 1168" 1170" 1172" 1174" 1176" 1178" 1180" 1182" 1184" 1186" 1188" 1190" 1192" 1194" 1196" 1198" 1200" 1202" 1204" 1206" 1208" 1210" 1212" 1214" 1216" 1218" 1220" 1222" 1224" 1226" 1228" 1230" 1232" 1234" 1236" 1238" 1240" 1242" 1244" 1246" 1248" 1250" 1252" 1254" 1256" 1258" 1260" 1262" 1264" 1266" 1268" 1270" 1272" 1274" 1276" 1278" 1280" 1282" 1284" 1286" 1288" 1290" 1292" 1294" 1296" 1298" 1300" 1302" 1304" 1306" 1308" 1310" 1312" 1314" 1316" 1318" 1320" 1322" 1324" 1326" 1328" 1330" 1332" 1334" 1336" 1338" 1340" 1342" 1344" 1346" 1348" 1350" 1352" 1354" 1356" 1358" 1360" 1362" 1364" 1366" 1368" 1370" 1372" 1374" 1376" 1378" 1380" 1382" 1384" 1386" 1388" 1390" 1392" 1394" 1396" 1398" 1400" 1402" 1404" 1406" 1408" 1410" 1412" 1414" 1416" 1418" 1420" 1422" 1424" 1426" 1428" 1430" 1432" 1434" 1436" 1438" 1440" 1442" 1444" 1446" 1448" 1450" 1452" 1454" 1456" 1458" 1460" 1462" 1464" 1466" 1468" 1470" 1472" 1474" 1476" 1478" 1480" 1482" 1484" 1486" 1488" 1490" 1492" 1494" 1496" 1498" 1500" 1502" 1504" 1506" 1508" 1510" 1512" 1514" 1516" 1518" 1520" 1522" 1524" 1526" 1528" 1530" 1532" 1534" 1536" 1538" 1540" 1542" 1544" 1546" 1548" 1550" 1552" 1554" 1556" 1558" 1560" 1562" 1564" 1566" 1568" 1570" 1572" 1574" 1576" 1578" 1580" 1582" 1584" 1586" 1588" 1590" 1592" 1594" 1596" 1598" 1600" 1602" 1604" 1606" 1608" 1610" 1612" 1614" 1616" 1618" 1620" 1622" 1624" 1626" 1628" 1630" 1632" 1634" 1636" 1638" 1640" 1642" 1644" 1646" 1648" 1650" 1652" 1654" 1656" 1658" 1660" 1662" 1664" 1666" 1668" 1670" 1672" 1674" 1676" 1678" 1680" 1682" 1684" 1686" 1688" 1690" 1692" 1694" 1696" 1698" 1700" 1702" 1704" 1706" 1708" 1710" 1712" 1714" 1716" 1718" 1720" 1722" 1724" 1726" 1728" 1730" 1732" 1734" 1736" 1738" 1740" 1742" 1744" 1746" 1748" 1750" 1752" 1754" 1756" 1758" 1760" 1762" 1764" 1766" 1768" 1770" 1772" 1774" 1776" 1778" 1780" 1782" 1784" 1786" 1788" 1790" 1792" 1794" 1796" 1798" 1800" 1802" 1804" 1806" 1808" 1810" 1812" 1814" 1816" 1818" 1820" 1822" 1824" 1826" 1828" 1830" 1832" 1834" 1836" 1838" 1840" 1842" 1844" 1846" 1848" 1850" 1852" 1854" 1856" 1858" 1860" 1862" 1864" 1866" 1868" 1870" 1872" 1874" 1876" 1878" 1880" 1882" 1884" 1886" 1888" 1890" 1892" 1894" 1896" 1898" 1900" 1902" 1904" 1906" 1908" 1910" 1912" 1914" 1916" 1918" 1920" 1922" 1924" 1926" 1928" 1930" 1932" 1934" 1936" 1938" 1940" 1942" 1944" 1946" 1948" 1950" 1952" 1954" 1956" 1958" 1960" 1962" 1964" 1966" 1968" 1970" 1972" 1974" 1976" 1978" 1980" 1982" 1984" 1986" 1988" 1990" 1992" 1994" 1996" 1998" 2000" 2002" 2004" 2006" 2008" 2010" 2012" 2014" 2016" 2018" 2020" 2022" 2024" 2026" 2028" 2030" 2032" 2034" 2036" 2038" 2040" 2042" 2044" 2046" 2048" 2050" 2052" 2054" 2056" 2058" 2060" 2062" 2064" 2066" 2068" 2070" 2072" 2074" 2076" 2078" 2080" 2082" 2084" 2086" 2088" 2090" 2092" 2094" 2096" 2098" 2100" 2102" 2104" 2106" 2108" 2110" 2112" 2114" 2116" 2118" 2120" 2122" 2124" 2126" 2128" 2130" 2132" 2134" 2136" 2138" 2140" 2142" 2144" 2146" 2148" 2150" 2152" 2154" 2156" 2158" 2160" 2162" 2164" 2166" 2168" 2170" 2172" 2174" 2176" 2178" 2180" 2182" 2184" 2186" 2188" 2190" 2192" 2194" 2196" 2198" 2200" 2202" 2204" 2206" 2208" 2210" 2212" 2214" 2216" 2218" 2220" 2222" 2224" 2226" 2228" 2230" 2232" 2234" 2236" 2238" 2240" 2242" 2244" 2246" 2248" 2250" 2252" 2254" 2256" 2258" 2260" 2262" 2264" 2266" 2268" 2270" 2272" 2274" 2276" 2278" 2280" 2282" 2284" 2286" 2288" 2290" 2292" 2294" 2296" 2298" 2300" 2302" 2304" 2306" 2308" 2310" 2312" 2314" 2316" 2318" 2320" 2322" 2324" 2326" 2328" 2330" 2332" 2334" 2336" 2338" 2340" 2342" 2344" 2346" 2348" 2350" 2352" 2354" 2356" 2358" 2360" 2362" 2364" 2366" 2368" 2370" 2372" 2374" 2376" 2378" 2380" 2382" 2384" 2386" 2388" 2390" 2392" 2394" 2396" 2398" 2400" 2402" 2404" 2406" 2408" 2410" 2412" 2414" 2416" 2418" 2420" 2422" 2424" 2426" 2428" 2430" 2432" 2434" 2436" 2438" 2440" 2442" 2444" 2446" 2448" 2450" 2452" 2454" 2456" 2458" 2460" 2462" 2464" 2466" 2468" 2470" 2472" 2474" 2476" 2478" 2480" 2482" 2484" 2486" 2488" 2490" 2492" 2494" 2496" 2498" 2500" 2502" 2504" 2506" 2508" 2510" 2512" 2514" 2516" 2518" 2520" 2522" 2524" 2526" 2528" 2530" 2532" 2534" 2536" 2538" 2540" 2542" 2544" 2546" 2548" 2550" 2552" 2554" 2556" 2558" 2560" 2562" 2564" 2566" 2568" 2570" 2572" 2574" 2576" 2578" 2580" 2582" 2584" 2586" 2588" 2590" 2592" 2594" 2596" 2598" 2600" 2602" 2604" 2606" 2608" 2610" 2612" 2614" 2616" 2618" 2620" 2622" 2624" 2626" 2628" 2630" 2632" 2634" 2636" 2638" 2640" 2642" 2644" 2646" 2648" 2650" 2652" 2654" 2656" 2658" 2660" 2662" 2664" 2666" 2668" 2670" 2672" 2674" 2676" 2678" 2680" 2682" 2684" 2686" 2688" 2690" 2692" 2694" 2696" 2698" 2700" 2702" 2704" 2706" 2708" 2710" 2712" 2714" 2716" 2718" 2720" 2722" 2724" 2726" 2728" 2730" 2732" 2734" 2736" 2738" 2740" 2742" 2744" 2746" 2748" 2750" 2752" 2754" 2756" 2758" 2760" 2762" 2764" 2766" 2768" 2770" 2772" 2774" 2776" 2778" 2780" 2782" 2784" 2786" 2788" 2790" 2792" 2794" 2796" 2798" 2800" 2802" 2804" 2806" 2808" 2810" 2812" 2814" 2816" 2818" 2820" 2822" 2824" 2826" 2828" 2830" 2832" 2834" 2836" 2838" 2840" 2842" 2844" 2846" 2848" 2850" 2852" 2854" 2856" 2858" 2860" 2862" 2864" 2866" 2868" 2870" 2872" 2874" 2876" 2878" 2880" 2882" 2884" 2886" 2888" 2890" 2892" 2894" 2896" 2898" 2900" 2902" 2904" 2906" 2908" 2910" 2912" 2914" 2916" 2918" 2920" 2922" 2924" 2926" 2928" 2930" 2932" 2934" 2936" 2938" 2940" 2942" 2944" 2946" 2948" 2950" 2952" 2954" 2956" 2958" 2960" 2962" 2964" 2966" 2968" 2970" 2972" 2974" 2976" 2978" 2980" 2982" 2984" 2986" 2988" 2990" 2992" 2994" 2996" 2998" 3000" 3002" 3004" 3006" 3008" 3010" 3012" 3014" 3016" 3018" 3020" 3022" 3024" 3026" 3028" 3030" 3032" 3034" 3036" 3038" 3040" 3042" 3044" 3046" 3048" 3050" 3052" 3054" 3056" 3058" 3060" 3062" 3064" 3066" 3068" 3070" 3072" 3074" 3076" 3078" 3080" 3082" 3084" 3086" 3088" 3090" 3092" 3094" 3096" 3098" 3100" 3102" 3104" 3106" 3108" 3110" 3112" 3114" 3116" 3118" 3120" 3122" 3124" 3126" 3128" 3130" 3132" 3134" 3136" 3138" 3140" 3142" 3144" 3146" 3148" 3150" 3152" 3154" 3156" 3158" 3160" 3162" 3164" 3166" 3168" 3170" 3172" 3174" 3176" 3178" 3180" 3182" 3184" 3186" 3188" 3190" 3192" 3194" 3196" 3198" 3200" 3202" 3204" 3206" 3208" 3210" 3212" 3214" 3216" 3218" 3220" 3222" 3224" 3226" 3228" 3230" 3232" 3234" 3236" 3238" 3240" 3242" 3244" 3246" 3248" 3250" 3252" 3254" 3256" 3258" 3260" 3262" 3264" 3266" 3268" 3270" 3272" 3274" 3276" 3278" 3280" 3282" 3284" 3286" 3288" 3290" 3292" 3294" 3296" 3298" 3300" 3302" 3304" 3306" 3308" 3310" 3312" 3314" 3316" 3318" 3320" 3322" 3324" 3326" 3328" 3330" 3332" 3334" 3336" 3338" 3340" 3342" 3344" 3346" 3348" 3350" 3352" 3354" 3356" 3358" 3360" 3362" 3364" 3366" 3368" 3370" 3372" 3374" 3376" 3378" 3380" 3382" 3384" 3386" 3388" 3390" 3392" 3394" 3396" 3398" 3400" 3402" 3404" 3406" 3408" 3410" 3412" 3414" 3416" 3418" 3420" 3422" 3424" 3426" 3428" 3430" 3432" 3434" 3436" 3438" 3440" 3442" 3444" 3446" 3448" 3450" 3452" 3454" 3456" 3458" 3460" 3462" 3464" 3466" 3468" 3470" 3472" 3474" 3476" 3478" 3480" 3482" 3484" 3486" 3488" 3490" 3492" 3494" 3496" 3498" 3500" 3502" 3504" 3506" 3508" 3510" 3512" 3514" 3516" 3518" 3520" 3522" 3524" 3526" 3528" 3530" 3532" 3534" 3536" 3538" 3540" 3542" 3544" 3546" 3548" 3550" 3552" 3554" 3556" 3558" 3560" 3562" 3564" 3566" 3568" 3570" 3572" 3574" 3576" 3578" 3580" 3582" 3584" 3586" 3588" 3590" 3592" 3594" 3596" 3598" 3600" 3602" 3604" 3606" 3608" 3610" 3612" 3614" 3616" 3618" 3620" 3622" 3624" 3626" 3628" 3630" 3632" 3634" 3636" 3638" 3640" 3642" 3644" 3646" 3648" 3650" 3652" 3654" 3656" 3658" 3660" 3662" 3664" 3666" 3668" 3670" 3672" 3674" 3676" 3678" 3680" 3682" 3684" 3686" 3688" 3690" 3692" 3694" 3696" 3698" 3700" 3702" 3704" 3706" 3708" 3710" 3712" 3714" 3716" 3718" 3720" 3722" 3724" 3726" 3728" 3730" 3732" 3734" 3736" 3738" 3740" 3742" 3744" 3746" 3748" 3750" 3752" 3754" 3756" 3758" 3760" 3762" 3764" 3766" 3768" 3770" 3772" 3774" 3776" 3778" 3780" 3782" 3784" 3786" 3788" 3790" 3792" 3794" 3796" 3798" 3800" 3802" 3804" 3806" 3808" 3810" 3812" 3814" 3816" 3818" 3820" 3822" 3824" 3826" 3828" 3830" 3832" 3834" 3836" 3838" 3840" 3842" 3844" 3846" 3848" 3850" 3852" 3854" 3856" 3858" 3860" 3862" 3864" 386

National of the North seeks lottery rescue

DAVID LISTER

The West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, one of the biggest theatrical success stories of the Nineties, is in financial crisis. It will apply for lottery funding as "a financial lifeline", a spokesman said yesterday. He added that the board had at one point considered liquidation.

Interest charges and repayments on debts from the construction of the theatre some six years ago will amount to £2.4m over the next eight years, requiring it to generate an additional £200,000 each year.

A statement from the theatre yesterday said: "Without urgent alleviation of this financial millstone the Playhouse is faced with the real prospect of not being able to sustain its current level of operation from the next financial year."

That the Playhouse should be in dire financial straits is a surprise. Its artistic director, the acclaimed Jude Kelly, has proved one of the most exciting and innovative theatre heads, and only yesterday the Playhouse was nominated as "Most Welcoming Theatre" in the British regional Theatre Awards. Critics have described it as the National Theatre of the North.

The crisis dates back to an unexpected building debt and ensuing legal fees following a dispute with Amec, the builders,



Jude Kelly: Pleading with builder

in 1990. That dispute over extra costs in addition to the original £13.5m for the building went to arbitration and was settled out of court, with the Playhouse having to pay an extra £1.1m.

Ms Kelly said that at one point she went "and sat on the doorstep" of the chairman of Amec to plead with him. He was sympathetic and helped to reach a settlement. "But," a theatre spokesman added, "we spent all our savings on arbitration and legal fees and had to take on additional loans."

The theatre has had to amend its adventurous programming, cancelling a production by the Leeds playwright Tony Harrison. Further cuts are certain if the problems are not resolved.

Ben Elton, whose new play *Popcorn* is on at the Playhouse, said it was one of the foremost

British theatres for introducing new writing. "It's an absolute disaster that the Playhouse should be starved of cash," he said. "London is over-funded and the regions are under-funded."

The new Arts Council stabilisation programme to which the West Yorkshire Playhouse is applying will use lottery money to help pay off long-term debts, provided the council is satisfied about the institution's long-term policy.

Ms Kelly said: "There is a huge irony in the fact that while lottery funds have provided £70m for the Royal Opera House in London and £30m for the refurbishment of the Royal Court, one of the great new theatres has faced regular crises."

Inflated Rhinemaidens sing to Wagner's rubber ring



A rubber-suited Rhinemaiden, as Wagner may not have envisaged, in Richard Jones's interpretation of *Das Rheingold*, the first part of the Ring Cycle. The radical production opens at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, central London, tonight. Photograph: Laurie Lewis

"To think it all started with a Barclayloan for an extension."



David Hare, writing in this week's *Spectator* magazine, urges a boycott of the "hideous Barbican". He does acknowledge that this would mean missing the ravishing concerts of the LSO. But it strikes me — though he does not mention it — that it would also mean missing the excellent Royal Shakespeare Company, not least Adrian Noble's magical production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mr Hare is an associate director of the National Theatre, and it is, I suspect, unprecedented for such a senior figure at one theatre to advocate a boycott of another arts centre. I shall continue to go there to enjoy the RSC and urge Mr Hare to do likewise.

At the Barbican meanwhile, John Tusa, the managing

director, and Graham Sheffield, artistic director, are planning what to do with the main theatre when the RSC vacates it for six months of the year. Links and with the Vienna Festival are on the cards, but the theatre could be opened on Sundays for more matinees.

David Bowie's next appearance is not with a rock band but at the international visual arts gathering of the Florence Biennale next week. His central exhibit is "Where Do They Come From? Where Do They Go?" Nearly 15ft high, two optical boxes hang in the air. Between them a human form is suspended. "Time vacillating through eternity like a spinning coin," is Bowie's view.

DAVID LISTER

WALK FOR WILDLIFE

PHILLIP SCHOFFIELD SAYS,

"How can going for a walk at your local beauty spot help save endangered wildlife around the world?"

"It's simple. If you join WWF's Walk for Wildlife on Sunday 13 October."

There are over 250 walks taking place around the UK, and there is one near you.

Ring now for a sponsor form and details of your local walks:

HOTLINE
01483 426269

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 20107

With a Barclayloan for an extension, you don't just get an extension, you could also get some pretty amazing constructions. Because with every Barclayloan comes membership of Barclayloan Lifestyles, offering an exclusive range of privileges. Such as: £50 off selected British Midland flights to Europe; free days out at 100 of the UK's top attractions; up to 50% off Barclays Home Contents Insurance; Green Flag Breakdown protection from only £50. If you would like more information on Barclayloan Lifestyles or Barclayloan, simply phone us on 0800 400 100, quoting reference IN.T. Then just stand back and appreciate the view.

BARCLAYS

TO APPLY FOR A BARCLAYLOAN YOU MUST BE A UK RESIDENT AND HAVE A CREDIT RATING OF AT LEAST 1000. BARCLAYS IS A MEMBER OF THE BARCLAYS GROUP.

SEE YOUR LOCAL BARCLAYS BRANCH

Even the dogs in the street knew the peace process was over

As his new autobiography is published, Gerry Adams talks to Liz Thomson about the IRA and why talks collapsed

Gerry Adams has admitted that he was not shocked by the IRA bombing of London's Docklands which killed two people. "I think anyone who tells the truth of the situation knew that the peace process was going to break down."

In an interview to coincide with the publication of his autobiography, the Sinn Féin president said that following the Docklands bombing, he felt like "a spectator in a situation in which you are also a main player".

He said he knew the ceasefire was over after the report of the Mitchell Commission. "The Mitchell body came in. Sinn Féin welcomed the report. John Hume threw it out. John Hume says when he heard that he knew it was over."

"The dogs in the street were saying it was over. I knew it was over. Everyone knew it was over."

Mr Adams insists he had no control over the decision to bomb Docklands and Manchester. "Yes I do know people in the IRA. But does he control the IRA? No. The media representation of this actually leads to a total misunderstanding of the situation. You're dealing here with historical and contemporary political experience. It is not within the gift of one person to control any of the forces involved."

From as early as 1972 Mr Adams said his preference was for a political solution and by 1980 he was telling people there could be no military solution. "I said it was a political problem and I argued for the building of Sinn Féin within its own right and as a political alternative to the Establishment."

The talks with John Hume and the SDLP began in the mid-Eighties. "He and I first had a number of meetings ourselves and when those ended we continued exchanging views. They became public by accident in Easter '93 and we were then



Gerry Adams: 'It may be that you won't get any movement until you've got a British government that has a different complexion, but you can't sit and wait. You have to keep pushing'

Photograph: Pacemaker

moved by the various developments of that time to make a series of public pronouncements. The nub of that was a run of broad principles which we felt could be a foundation. "I think if John Hume and I did nothing else we proved to people that there was another way out of this situation." He has asked the Rev Ian Paisley for talks; there has been no reply.

By the time of the Docklands bombing the peace process was in tatters. "There weren't any talks. Nonsense was made of the whole issue of decommissioning, but what was fuelling the

issue on the ground was the refusal to move on the question of prisoners. One Irish prisoner, Paddy Kelly, became terminally ill while in prison in Britain while Lee Clegg, a British paratrooper, was released.

Then an Orange parade was forced down the Lower Ormeau Road and people were badly beaten by the RUC. I think the big breaking point in the popular imagination was around the time of the visit by President Clinton. In November, it was a year and however many months and the Presidential visit saved the situation.

There was a joint communiqué from the two governments. That was all long-fingered until February."

But could not he have asked the IRA for extra time? "No," replies Mr Adams, again citing "media misinformation". Then what is the point of negotiating with Sinn Féin if it cannot control the IRA? "Because we have an electoral mandate."

He added the IRA had been persuaded to call for "a complete cessation of armed actions ... to bring about a settlement. When that did not come about they could justifiably say: 'We

did our best, we've kept it for a year and a half."

What does Mr Adams think the IRA hoped to gain by blowing up innocent civilians in Manchester? "Well, I don't see any point to it either and I have long since moved away from seeking even to explain the tactical or other inflections of IRA operations."

Why does he carry the coffin of IRA bombers? "That shows a misunderstanding of the situation again. That person was a neighbour, a member of the community. I would feel a political need to express solidarity

with his family, with the rest of the people in the area who are demonised because of his action."

Mr Adams does not subscribe to the idea that Mr Major is a prisoner to the Ulster Unionists. "But he's a Unionist in the sense of not wanting to be the British prime minister who would preside over the break up of the United Kingdom. I think there is a sense among the English Establishment of the union of the United Kingdom and this place being the thread which, if they pull it out, everything starts to

unravel ... I think the short answer is that John Major does what John Major does because he doesn't want to see the union ended."

"But I don't think we can wait until he goes; I think we have to keep working with whatever British prime minister and taoiseach happens to be in power. It may be the reality that you won't get any movement until you've got a government there that has a different complexion, but you can't sit and wait. You have to keep pushing."

In a taxi en route to the airport, the driver asks me about

my day. A Catholic, "though don't go to mass", he recalls being sent out to give soup and sandwiches to the soldiers. He had been suspicious of Mr Adams, initially writing him off as another De Valera. Now, he was not so sure and felt him to be serious in his search for peace. "He's caught between a rock and a hard place. I hope he succeeds, because if he doesn't, we'll have another 25 years far worse than the last."

Before the Dawn: an autobiography by Gerry Adams; Heinemann in association with Brandon: £17.99.

Kurds fear starvation as delay

POSTAL INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS CURRENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 21 SEPTEMBER 1996

THESE ACCOUNTS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

Account	Rate	Account	Rate
POSTAL 120 (Annual)		POSTAL 7 (Annual)	
£25,000 or more	5.40	£10,000 or more	3.75
£10,000 - £24,999	5.25	£5,000 - £9,999	3.70
£5,000 - £9,999	4.65	£25,000 - £49,999	3.45
£500 - £4,999	0.50	£10,000 - £24,999	2.65
		£2,500 - £9,999	2.20
		£500 - £2,499	0.50
POSTAL 120 (Monthly)		POSTAL 7 (Monthly)	
£25,000 or more	5.40	£10,000 or more	3.69
£10,000 - £24,999	5.15	£5,000 - £9,999	3.64
£5,000 - £9,999	4.55	£25,000 - £49,999	3.40
£500 - £4,999	0.50	£10,000 - £24,999	2.62
		£2,500 - £9,999	2.18
		£500 - £2,499	0.50
POSTAL 90 (Annual)		POSTAL ACCOUNT (Annual)	
£50,000 or more	4.40	Can now be operated through branches	
£25,000 - £49,999	4.30	£50,000 or more	3.65
£10,000 - £24,999	4.00	£25,000 - £49,999	3.20
£5,000 - £9,999	3.00	£10,000 - £24,999	3.10
£500 - £4,999	0.50	£5,000 - £9,999	2.15
		£500 - £4,999	1.90
POSTAL 90 (Monthly)		£500 - £1,999	1.80
£50,000 or more	4.31	£500 - £499	0.50
£25,000 - £49,999	4.22	POSTAL ACCOUNT (Monthly)	
£10,000 - £24,999	3.93	Can now be operated through branches	
£5,000 - £9,999	3.55	£50,000 or more	3.59
£500 - £4,999	0.50	£25,000 - £49,999	3.15
POSTAL 60 (Annual)		£10,000 - £24,999	3.06
£10,000 or more	3.90	£5,000 - £9,999	2.13
£5,000 - £9,999	3.85	£2,500 - £9,999	1.88
£2,500 - £4,999	3.55	£500 - £4,999	0.50
£500 - £4,999	0.50	GO DIRECT*	
POSTAL 60 (Monthly)		Can now be operated through branches	
£10,000 or more	3.83	£50,000 or more	3.65
£5,000 - £9,999	3.78	£25,000 - £49,999	3.20
£2,500 - £4,999	3.49	£10,000 - £24,999	3.10
£500 - £4,999	0.50	£5,000 - £9,999	2.15
POSTAL 30 (Annual)		£2,500 - £4,999	1.90
£50,000 or more	3.50	£500 - £1,999	1.80
£25,000 - £49,999	3.30	£500 - £499	0.50
£10,000 - £24,999	2.70		
£5,000 - £9,999	2.25		
£500 - £4,999	0.50		

Rates correct as at 21.9.96. The circumstances in which the interest rates may vary are set out in our Postal Accounts Terms & Conditions. Interest is not paid on balances below £50, unless a statement is registered in writing under 22 years of age. Please contact your local branch for full details.

1. Interest will be paid after deduction of income tax at the lower rate currently 10%, or, subject to the registered conditions, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax.

2. For individuals whose income falls within the lower or basic rate bands, the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the account and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax or 40% will have to pay additional 10% on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due.

3. Holders of these accounts may operate a direct debit arrangement through branches. To have nothing withdrawn, a declaration, such as a full 12.5% (dividend income or interest) will be required, in addition to a passbook.

4. Rates include a bonus of 0.25% gross p.a. payable if you make no withdrawals in each specified 12 month period. Full details on request.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO INVESTORS

With effect from 1 October 1996, the low balance charge of £3 per quarter, payable if an investment balance falls below £50 for six or more consecutive days, will be withdrawn.

Charges incurred during the period 1 July to 30 September will be made in the usual way on 15 October 1996.

NORTHERN ROCK

Northern Rock Building Society, Principal Office Northern Rock, Hockley, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3PL

Get Your Paws on All About Dogs

... And get your paws on all this:

The definitive dog-lover's magazine - packed with all the news that's fit to bark at: famous dogs, heroic dogs, which dog will be your best friend ... and so much more!

Plus straight from the horse's - er, dog's - mouth: health advice and top tips in caring for your best friend

And sure to get your tail wagging:

A year's subscription (bi-monthly) delivered straight to your door

A money-back guarantee if you're not totally satisfied with your subscription*

A chance to win another of modern man's best friends - an Apple Macintosh computer**

* The guarantee applies to any unopened portion of your year-long subscription.

** Subscription must be received by 15/10/96 to be entered in the prize draw which will be conducted by the end of 1997.

Draw at All About Dogs: no purchase necessary.

YES! I WANT TO GET MY PAWS ON ALL ABOUT DOGS!

Subscribing is easy!

Just call Debbie at Gong Publishing on 0171-384-3263 (ext. 5523)

Or fill out this coupon and send it to:

All About Dogs, Suite C, 21 Heathmans Road, London, SW6 4EP

I am paying by:

☐ Cheque, made payable to Gong Publishing Group Ltd

☐ Postal order, made payable to Gong Publishing Group Ltd

☐ Credit card

Access or Visa No. _____

Signature _____

£10.00 (including postage and packing) per year. If you want to cancel, please return the coupon to the publisher.

SAVE UP TO 60% ON INTERNATIONAL CALLS.

Destination	First Telecom	R.I.	Save %
USA	£1.18	£2.90	59%
India	£7.29	£9.90	26%
Canada	£1.65	£2.90	43%
Australia	£2.23	£4.90	54%
South Africa	£4.70	£7.50	37%
Germany/France	£2.11	£2.60	19%
Nigeria	£7.05	£9.90	29%
Hong Kong	£4.11	£5.90	30%
Singapore	£4.47	£5.90	24%

(Price comparison based on a 10 minute call)*

- * Savings to 100's of countries
- * No Access Charge to our Exchange
- * No start-up costs, membership or joining fees
- * Operators available, 24hrs a day, 7 days a week

FREEPHONE
0800 376 66 66

BEFORE YOU PHONE THE WORLD, PHONE US.

Globally Speaking - a service provided by First Telecom plc Limited Carrier

* First Telecom tariffs shown are weekend rates inclusive of VAT. British Telecom tariffs shown are weekend rates inclusive of VAT. All charges are correct as of September 1996.

كلنا من الامل

US grants Barzani his spoils of war

PATRICK COCKBURN
Salahudin, northern Iraq

Swallowing its anger over Masoud Barzani's brief co-operation with Baghdad, the US has accepted him as the unchallenged leader of Kurdistan. At a meeting with Mr Barzani in Ankara this week a special envoy of President Bill Clinton made only a limited effort to mediate between him and Jalal Talabani, his defeated rival, said Kurdish sources.

The US said before the meeting between Robert Pelletreau, the assistant secretary of state for the Near East and the Kurdish leader that it would seek to broker a compromise between the Kurdish parties.

Effectively turning this down Mr Barzani said he would only meet Mr Talabani in Kurdistan and not abroad, and only if he dissolved his militia and gave up his arms. By not pressing the issue the US has evidently decided it has to accept Mr Barzani's victory in the civil war.

Mr Barzani said yesterday the Kurds "did not intend to be used as a card for a certain time to put pressure on Baghdad and then be abandoned." He said Turkey had dropped its plan to build a 25km-wide cordon

saib in northern Iraq to protect it against its own Kurdish rebels. At a meeting with Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Foreign Minister, he said the scheme was not mentioned and "we understand they have given up the project".

The victorious Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) believes Mr Talabani will continue to fight but will only be able to make pin-prick attacks. Samad al-Rahman, a senior KDP leader, says Mr Talabani has only 2,000 men left and that Iran might provide some long-range artillery support but did not want to provoke a serious crisis. He said Iran's backing of Mr Talabani last month "was not supported by the whole government, but was the policy of the *pasdaran* [revolutionary guards] who are looking for a role. Iranian policy is shattered to pieces."

Mr Barzani is trying to reassure the US that his tactical agreement with the Iraqi leader to use Iraqi tanks to capture Arbil last month has no long-term implications for Kurdistan. Mr Barzani yesterday dismissed reports of Iraqi agents in Kurdish cities saying: "Let them tell us where these agents are so we can arrest them."

But the KDP does not want

to offend Baghdad by returning too enthusiastically to the US embrace. Kurds in Arbil are watching to see if Saddam Hussein shows he thinks he is not getting a fair price for his support by resuming an economic blockade on Kurdistan. A sign of anxiety is that many houses are for sale in Arbil and the city of Sulaymaniyah.

The Kurdish leaders say they told Mr Pelletreau that "protection cannot be only against Iraq". In other words, Turkey and Iran, both of whom have sent their soldiers into Kurdistan over the last year, should also be restrained. Although the KDP is pleased relations with the US have been restored, apparently at a higher level than before, its leaders say that in the long-term their future remains in doubt. Allied air protection depends on the West's hostility to Saddam Hussein. Under any other government in

Baghdad this military guarantee might be withdrawn and the Kurds left open to reconquest. Washington — John Deutch, the director of the CIA, told Congress on Thursday that the Kurdish faction which has seized control of northern Iraq with President Saddam's help has now asked the Western coalition for protection from Saddam, writes John Carlin.

Mr Deutch, addressing the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the President's grip on power had tightened following Iraq's latest clash with the US. "Saddam Hussein's position has strengthened in the region," the CIA chief said.

But Mr Deutch said Mr Barzani, the KDP leader, is seeking to distance himself from Saddam. The basis for this appears to have been the meeting Mr Barzani held in Ankara on Wednesday with Mr Pelletreau, a senior US diplomat.



At the ready: A US soldier in gas mask on exercises near the Iraq border

Photograph: Reuter

Kurds fear starvation as aid is delayed

PATRICK COCKBURN
Arbil, northern Iraq

Hundreds of thousands of Kurds in northern Iraq face starvation because food aid, first promised by the United Nations earlier this year and now delayed, stopped Kurdish farmers planting crops for which they believed there would be no market.

Under the oil-for-food plan, agreed by the UN Security Council in May, 3 million people in Kurdistan were to receive full food rations. Peter Forster, the northern co-ordinator of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Iraq, says: "The farmers here realised there was no point in growing food, which they could not sell, because people would be getting food free."

Ironically UN resolution 986, aimed at feeding people in Iraq and Kurdistan who were impoverished by six years of UN sanctions, by allowing a limited sale of Iraqi oil, has reduced an estimated 660,000 Kurds and 1.5 million Iraqis to the brink of famine. Poor rainfall earlier this year had already cut the wheat crop, mainly grown in the plain below the Kurdish mountains, to 40 per cent below its normal level.

The oil-for-food-plan, worth \$150m (£100m) every three months to the Kurds, was suspended earlier this month after Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, helped the Kurdish Democratic Party capture Arbil, the Kurdish capital, and win the civil war with the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. The plan is not now expected to be implemented until after the US presidential election in November and possibly not until the end of the year.

Mr Forster says the WFP is launching an appeal to donors to try to make up the shortfall in food from October until the end of the year. He says the Kurds most at risk are the very

poor. They include orphans — survivors of the Iraqi An Fal operation of 1988 in which 100,000 Kurds were killed — 100,000 refugees from Kirkuk expelled in 1991, and 50,000 people displaced by the recent fighting.

The whole of Kurdistan is deeply impoverished; many people have sold their furniture and everything else they owned since UN sanctions were introduced in 1990. Even a soldier is paid only about 1,000 Iraqi dinars (£22) a month and this is often paid six months in arrears. A bizarre consequence of the suspension of the oil-for-food plan is that it is making the Kurds more economically dependent on Baghdad. Iraq has started selling petrol for less than a penny a litre. In recent days there have been long queues outside the reopened petrol stations in Arbil to get the cheaper supplies.

The UN plan was to give each Kurd 9kg of wheat flour a month, 2kg of rice, 2 kg of sugar, as well as tea, oil, pulses, salt, milk powder for babies, soap and detergent. This was to have been paid for by the sale of Iraqi oil. Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Security Council and Baghdad all purchases would be made abroad. Expecting that no Kurd would need to buy flour — the staple food in Kurdistan is bread — farmers decided it was not worth planting wheat. In a good year they produce 40,000 tons.

Again, if the UN plan does not go ahead, the only haven for Kurdish farmers may be Baghdad, which may want to build up its own buffer stocks of food and increase the reliance of the Kurds on central government. Even when the economic embargo was enforced, Iraq bought some grain in the north, mostly from territory controlled by the now triumphant KDP. The PUK had imposed a 60-per-cent levy on grain sales to the rest of Iraq in order to raise money.

Doctors warn Yeltsin his condition is serious

HELEN WIDMACK
Moscow

Doctors preparing Boris Yeltsin for a heart bypass operation ordered him to stay in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital over the weekend instead of allowing him out as the Russian leader had hoped. In the frankest statement yet about the health of the 65-year-old president, one doctor admitted he had other problems apart from heart trouble.

"We must understand that the person is getting ready for a very serious operation," said Sergei Mironov, head of the presidential health centre. "It needs sufficiently extensive balanced and serious preparations. You all understand what is at stake."

Russian cardiologists and Western consultants, including the pioneering US surgeon Michael DeBakey, will meet on Wednesday to set a date for the bypass, an operation in which

veins are grafted on to coronary arteries to improve the flow of blood to the heart.

Renaud Acker, the Russian surgeon who is most likely to lead the operation, said much depended on the overall strength of the patient. "Success rates are about 98 per cent if you are dealing with an uncomplicated generally healthy patient." But he added: "If you have some problems with other systems and organs, the percentage of success might decrease to 90 per cent."

Dr Mironov admitted that his heart was not all that troubled Mr Yeltsin. "All of us during our lives acquire quite a lot of different problems with our organs and unfortunately Boris Nikolayevich has them too," he said.

Mr Yeltsin has moved to stop any power struggle in his absence by declaring that his prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, will be acting president with control over the nuclear button while he is incapacitated.

Finally.

A computer system for companies

with more

brains

than money.



Spend! Spend! Spend!

For your company to expand smoothly it's the only option. We don't mean cash. What you should spend is time thinking. After all, choosing your PC server and desktops is an important decision.

In particular, if you're looking to save time, money and more besides, IBM offers plenty of food for thought.

We have a choice of pre-configured server solutions, developed in conjunction with leading alliance partners like Microsoft and Novell.

Or, as all IBM PC Servers come with ServerGuide, you can create a bespoke system from the leading network

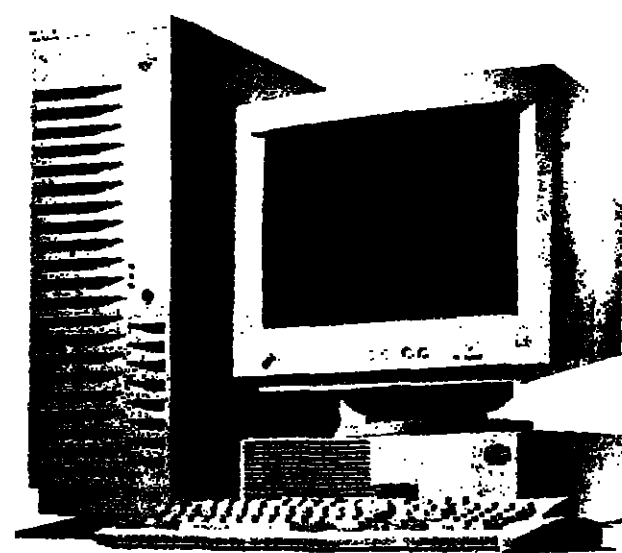
software platforms. ServerGuide has menu-driven installation procedures, which means it's quick and easy to set up. All IBM PC Servers also come with Lotus Notes included, the leading groupware that allows users to find, organise and share information.

We'll save you a few headaches, thanks to TME 10 NetFinity, which comes with every PC Server.

This award winning systems management tool can identify potential problems before they occur. And, during IBM's pre-failure warranty period, you can replace parts free of charge, even before they fail.

In addition, IBM Servers are now more affordable, through a series of flexible finance packages*. They allow you to buy now, whilst spreading payment over a period that suits your business.

So before you start spending money, why not spend a little time talking to us? Just call 0990 72 72 72 for a Server Information Pack or visit us at www.pc.ibm.com



IBM

Solutions for a small planet

Lotus Notes is a registered trademark of Lotus Corporation. Microsoft is a registered trademark of the Microsoft Corporation. Novell is a registered trademark of Novell Inc. *Finance packages offered by IBM United Kingdom Financial Services Limited, DS1 IND2109. PO Box 41, North Harbour, Portsmouth PO6 3AU. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Quotations available on request. APR is variable.

EMU council may punish errant states

In another sign that Britain's partners are determined to forge ahead, Mr de Silguy confirmed that the commission is likely to approve a French manoeuvre to bring its budget deficit into line in 1997.

British troops who paid the price of peace

ness in Germany, he had smuggled his classic American car out of Gorazde before the siege, and then returned to drive an old van round the town, collecting the dead and taking the wounded to hospital. Fergus Rennie, the SAS man, had lunch with Osman just before he died. He had sat where we now sat, in the garden, by the well which Osman used to cool the beer. Osman was proud of that.

Only Currys

UP TO **18 MONTHS**
0% INTEREST
ON A RANGE OF TV AND VIDEOS
PLUS EXTRA SAVINGS
ON MANY PRODUCTS - HURRY FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY

SERVICING
Available for most large items
(next day for PCs) if you
phone before 11am Monday
to Friday and live within 10
miles.

كان من الأصل



Space summit: Russia's Mir space station seen from the United States craft, Atlantis, as they docked above the Earth. They are expected to separate on Monday when the record-breaking astronaut Shannon Lucid will return to the US after six months in space. Photograph: AP/Nasa

UN man says Bulgaria tried to murder him

ADRIAN BRIDGE
Central Europe Correspondent

The curse of the poisoned umbrella tip returned to haunt Bulgaria yesterday after the country's top diplomat to the United Nations accused his own government of deploying dirty tricks against political opponents similar to those allegedly used against former dissidents.

In an extraordinary outburst, Stavi Pashovski, Bulgaria's ambassador to the UN and a fierce critic of the government, said that he had been the victim of a murder attempt and that he knew of at least one further such incident involving another senior Bulgarian diplomat.

At the same time he accused the country's leaders of being unreconstructed communists who were ruining the economy to enrich themselves.

"While the tears of the vic-

tims of communism have still not dried, we have been presenting new scenarios with a mafia plot," said Mr Pashovski. "Let us ... put an end to the infamy of the Bulgarian umbrella once and for all," he added in a reference to the bizarre killing in 1978 of Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian defector who died shortly after being stabbed in the leg by a poison-tipped umbrella on the streets of London.

Government representatives in Sofia quickly dismissed Mr Pashovski's charges as groundless, describing as "ridiculous" the claim that they had been behind an apparent attempt on his life involving tampering with the steering wheel of his car.

They also rejected the ambassador's claim that the Bulgarian ambassador to Albania, another government critic, had been driven off a cliff in the Macedonian mountains by a hired assassin.

"Mr Pashovski's allegations are pure flights of the imagination," said Panteley Karasimeonov, the foreign ministry spokesman in Sofia. "His conduct is quite inadmissible. It is both ridiculous and sad that a high-ranking diplomat can talk in such a way."

Mr Pashovski was originally appointed to the United Nations post in 1992 at the behest of the then governing Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) and enjoyed the full blessing of the staunchly anti-communist President, Zhelyu Zhelev.

But relations with the government nosedived in 1994 when the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) - successors to the former ruling communists - romped to election victory.

Since then the new government has consistently sought the

removal of Mr Pashovski and a host of other ambassadors who they believed to be appointees from the previous regime. Much to their annoyance, however, the only man in Bulgaria who has the power to hire and fire ambassadors is President Zhelev - who is the government's most ardent critic.

The result has been a political stalemate which has paralysed foreign policy and exacerbated the divisions between the pro-Nato approach of Mr Zhelev and the more ambiguous Moscow-friendly approach of the Socialists.

It has also - as in the case of Mr Pashovski - turned the country's foreign policy into farce. Thus, although he is Bulgaria's ambassador to the UN, Mr Pashovski has for two years running not been included on the government-chosen list for the Bulgarian delegation to the UN's annual general assembly. It was his exclusion from the current assembly, indeed, that triggered the latest row.

For most Bulgarians, such shenanigans have long since become a way of life, adding to a general sense of disillusionment with the 1989 revolution. With the economy in deep crisis and inflation set to reach 200 per cent this year, most people are more concerned about how to make ends meet.

But the row between Mr Pashovski and the government threatens to seriously damage the country's international standing. "Of course this sort of thing does us harm, but then, Bulgaria is a funny country," said a government source.

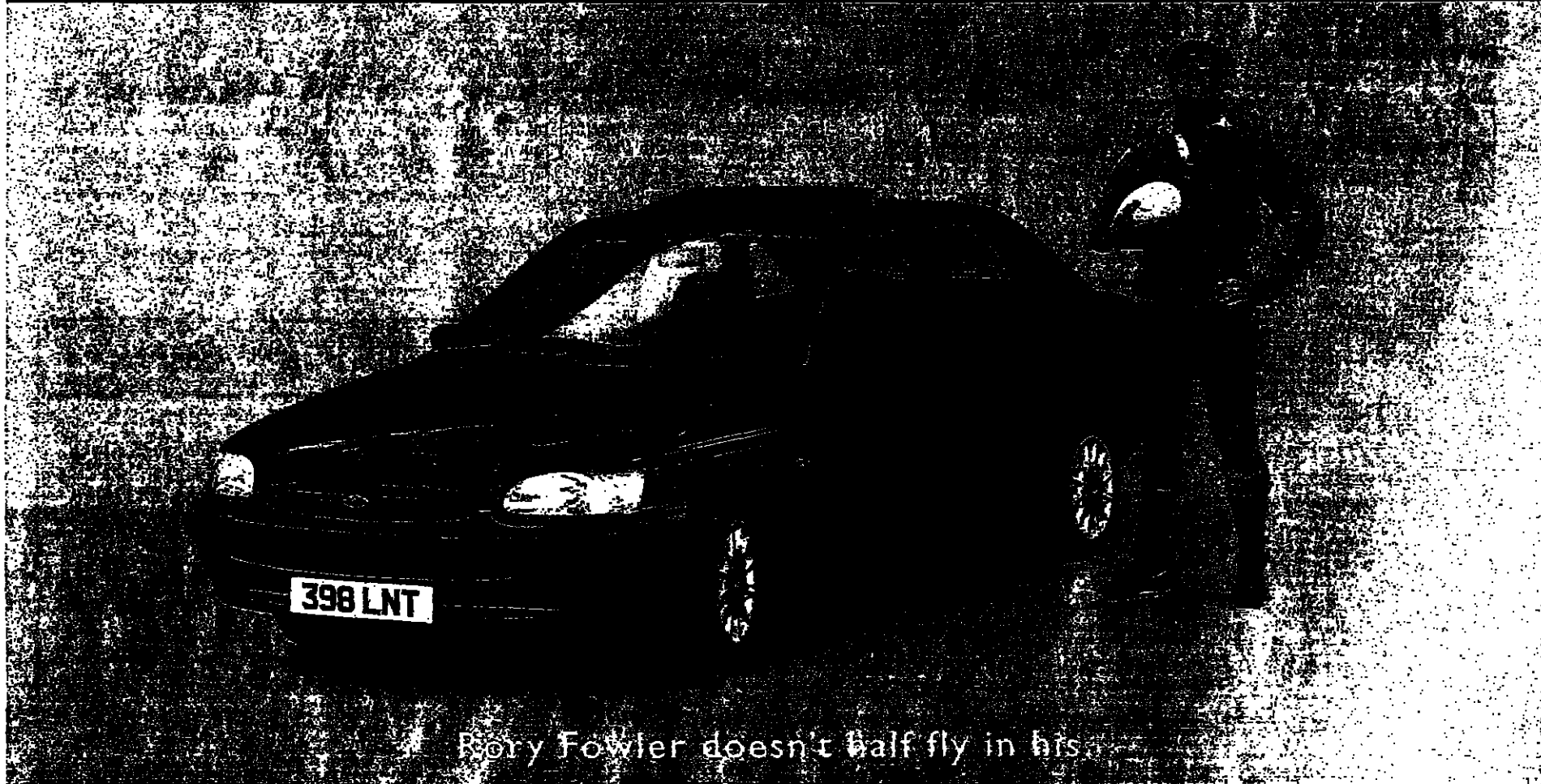
Moderates hope the situation will improve after the presidential election in late October in which Mr Zhelev will not be standing.

AVAILABLE
WITH
FREE INSURANCE*

ESCORT LX.

£193 A MONTH. APR 7.5%.

(Plus deposit and optional final payment.)



Bory Fowler doesn't half fly in his.

- Power-assisted steering.
- Body colour bumpers.
- Drivers airbag and side impact bars.
- Central/double locking.
- Safeguard engine immobiliser.
- Tilt/slide sunroof.
- 4 speaker RDS EON radio/cassette.

Options	Escort LX 1.4i
Mileage (per annum)	12,000 p.a.
Recommended retail price*	£11,795.00
Estimated on the road price**	£12,430.00
Deposit (30%)	£3,729.00
Balance	£8,701.00
Total charge for credit†	£1,049.60
Total amount payable	£13,479.60
Term (months)	25
Number of monthly payments	24
Monthly payment	£192.65
Optional final payment to purchase (Minimum Guaranteed Future Value††)	£5,072.00
APR	7.5%

To find out more about Options call 0345 555 222 or visit your local Ford Dealer.

ESCORT. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOURS?



Engineers of the soul try to fill China's moral vacuum

TERESA POOLE
Peking

"Spiritual civilisation" is about to be launched on the Chinese as an all-embracing palliative for the country's social ills.

Next week, the Communist Party holds its annual plenum, a private affair which this year is expected to dwell on values in modern China. President Jiang Zemin, keen to shore up his position with the people and the army, has chosen "spiritual civilisation" as the guiding theme. The *People's Daily*, the party mouthpiece, is paving the way with a series featuring a new generation of model workers.

The deeds of a tax collector, an industry-and-commerce cadre and a bureaucrat have been described in detail as the "vivid educational material of socialist spiritual civilisation construction".

These officials have been chosen to exemplify the core of "spiritual civilisation": love for the motherland, loyalty to the party, care for fellow citizens, diligence at work (especially in corruption) and - modestly - respect for the environment.

The emphasis on patriotism and gratitude to the party is supposed to fill the moral vacuum in which the Chinese find themselves and to improve the party's image.

More practical tenets address a society racked by crime, corruption, environmental damage and collapsing family values. This week Liu Jiachen, deputy president of the Supreme People's Court, admitted crime syndicates were "seriously affecting the normal operation of our government and party units and administration" and would be the target of the next stage of the

"Strike Hard" anti-crime blitz.

As part of "spiritual civilisation", this month was deemed Public Service Announcements Month and thus billboards and newspapers have devoted space to wholesome messages. "Enhance consciousness of environment, and improve the sanitary level of the city," said one placard.

Peking Youth Daily, China's most liberal newspaper, had a cartoon of a lonely old woman: "Today, go back home and spend some time with your parents," read the caption. Water conservation was the theme of another advertisement.

"Spiritual civilisation" has its more overtly political side. This month the *Peking Youth Daily* editor was replaced with a hardline propagandist, and Peking has implemented a plan to block Internet access to several sites, including US media, human-rights bodies, and pornography.

Most tellingly, the government suspended *Economic Work Monthly* magazine, which published a criticism of an unofficial leftist tract which has become known as the "10,000-word essay" and which attacked the decline of the state sector and the fast pace of reform. The author of the essay has not revealed himself, but Deng Liqun, an orthodox Marxist ideologue and former propaganda chief, denied he had penned it.

"Spiritual civilisation" serves several purposes: a media clamp curries favour with anti-liberals, while anti-crime campaigns seek popular support.

The question is whether modern Chinese notice old-style propaganda campaigns like "spiritual civilisation": among most, traditional values have given way to cynicism.

HOME INSURANCE

More than just low cost home insurance if you are over 50

SAGA

Call for a quotation free on

0800 414 525
ext.ID9608

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to insurance companies to check how to do so.

*Recommended Retail Price including VAT at 17.5% as at 1 Sept. 1996. **Includes VAT and £635.00 on the road costs for delivery, 12 months road fund licence and estimated costs for fuel and motor plates. †Total charge for credit includes an administration fee of £35.00 (incl. VAT), payable with the first monthly payment. ††Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition of the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. ‡ 6/1.8 LX available at £10,140 and 1.8 turbo diesel at £12,930 on the road. Written Options quotations are available upon request from Ford Credit Europe plc, PO Box 46, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3AR. Guarantees and endorsements may be required. Finance is provided subject to status to over 18s only. Certain categories of business users are ineligible. ‡ 12 month free insurance subject to age and status. Applies to vehicles registered between 1.9.96 - 31.10.96.

ملا من الأصل

Moralising is not the answer for Major

Ian Beale wants the kids. Cindy has deceived him, betrayed him and broken his heart all over again, and this time he can't bear her taking his children away with her. The *EastEnders* couple are agonising over divorce. *Brookside* is doing incest this month. And *Casualty* regularly whips through the rights and wrongs of prolonging a painful life, or prioritising different patients. Where would our soaps be without a juicy moral dilemma or two?

We all enjoy a good ponder about what's good and bad. The Archbishop of Canterbury may be right in his claim that morality has been privatised. Most people don't look to the church or to the law to provide them with all their moral answers. But it doesn't mean we are any less concerned about living a good life, just because we develop our own views about what a good life should be. Morality is as important to us as ever, albeit in a different way.

So we shouldn't be surprised when a politician wants to tell us how moral he and his tax plans are - as John Major did this week.

Politicians are understandably keen to persuade us that right (and not just the pursuit of power) is on their side. But when John Major tried to recapture the moral high ground by claiming that the criterion for morality was tax cutting, he made a mistake.

For a start, invoking the m-word is always a risky strategy; the British public is touchy about the kinds of moral statements it will accept from politicians. But more important, he is overstating his case - it just isn't plausible to most people that tax cutting per se counts as a moral precept to be revered. The Prime Minister is right to try to persuade us that our government is moral, but he is going the wrong way about it.

Last time the Prime Minister tried appealing to our ethics, his Back to Basics campaign was spectacularly scuppered by the apparent lack of ethics among Tory MPs. The fact that party representatives were having affairs all over the place would not have been so much of a problem had the Prime Minister not staked his political reputation on his disapproval of all things adulterous.

When politicians try to tell us how to live our lives, there is bound to be trouble. We don't want them, church leaders or anyone else to preach at us from the high ground - especially when they are clearly all capable of making the same mistakes and misjudgements themselves. Ian, Cindy and half the cast of *EastEnders* may well be making a mess of their lives, making foolish decisions, and generally behaving badly towards each other; but at least they are making their own decisions and not following the dictates of politicians or government officials.



Wherever we have truly important moral decisions to make, we want little more than broad guidelines from government. Beyond that, whether we marry, when we divorce, whether we have abortions, who we sleep with, what we watch on television and where and who we worship should all be as free as possible from state intervention.

But government can't opt out of moral questions altogether; nor should it. For a start, we need moral behaviour and integrity from our government and our politicians. One of the reasons Tony Blair has made such capital out of morality is because his own Christian socialism is so eminently credible and respectable. We like the fact that he believes in something, and has strong moral values - so long as he doesn't force them down our throats. In multi-cultural America, a president has to have some religion to get elected, even if most of his voters have different religions.

John Major, too, clearly has his own personal moral creed: decency and propriety matter to him greatly. But he has considerable ground to make up, and his card is marked by the rest of his party, some well-known members of whom have engaged in sleazy behaviour. Whether it be cash for questions, misleading Parliament or secretly encouraging arms deals, members of the

Conservative Parliamentary Party have not done Mr Major credit.

No wonder, then, that the Prime Minister felt the need to interact voters' views of his government. But he needs to prove his own integrity, not just label his favourite policies "moral" to claim that the criterion for moral behaviour in government is tax cutting is missing the point. Even the most ardent state slashers among us would concede that the advocates of tax increases to pay for the health service or for pensions can cite moral arguments in their defence. Similarly, using the evil red eyes to characterise Tony Blair is a great political gimmick, but it is, frankly, nasty, and does "moral" Mr Major no good. The public may agree that Tony Blair is wrong, but we don't think him evil.

Britain could do with some moral government. We need politicians who are honest, open and accountable - politicians who have integrity and who believe first and foremost in leaving as many moral decisions as possible up to individuals themselves. Beyond that, we as voters can then decide which set of values we want to govern our communal activities, such as taxing and spending, for the next five years. But if we disagree with Mr Major over exactly where tax levels should be set, we don't expect to be branded immoral. Governments that are truly moral don't need to keep telling us so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Britain and Europe: enemies of Brussels claim the true heritage of Churchill

Sir: Invoking the name of Winston Churchill to support their vision of Britain's place in Europe is a favourite ploy of the Europhiles. The six Tory grandees in their letter (19 September) do it three times. In fact Churchill made clear on many occasions, including the Zurich speech ("we are interested in but not absorbed") that his vision explicitly excluded Britain from a future United States of Europe. My guess is that Churchill would be truly horrified at the defeatist tendency in British public life which

sees no future for Britain except as part of a Franco-German dominated European Union. The usual deprecating reference to "little Englanders" also comes ill from the six grandees. They might like to know that Joe Chamberlain coined the phrase to describe those, like the six, who concentrated on England's immediate neighbourhood (the Continent) rather than on the "greater England" in the world beyond the seas.

Those of us who long for Britain's withdrawal from the EU do so in the knowledge that while the

continental market is important to Britain, it is not unique and our access to it is not dependent on membership of the EU, any more than it is for the USA, Japan or Switzerland. We also know that the economic growth opportunities of the next millennium lie overwhelmingly in the wider world far from the perpetual European squabbles. Both in this vision of Britain's global future and in our wish to avoid the clutches of the EU we are Churchill's true inheritors. Professor S F BUSH, Poynton, Cheshire

Sir: The Europhiles are absolutely right to cite Winston Churchill as their mentor. It was Churchill who took Britain into a monetary union in 1926 by returning to the Gold Standard. The result was the General Strike, an early slump in UK output and an unmanageable external payments position from which we were extricated only by the collapse of said monetary union after 1931. PETER M OPPENHEIMER, Christ Church, Oxford

Sir: David Shamash (Letters, 16

September) asks how it is that the European Union can simultaneously ban British beef exports on health grounds while permitting its consumption in this country.

The answer is very simple: the operation of that simple and wonderful concept "subsidiarity", which means the Government can opt out, saving British consumers from the predatory instincts of Brussels bureaucrats. Glyn Ford MEP (Greater Manchester East, Lab) Brussels

LETTER from THE EDITOR

No argument; everybody agrees; terrible nonsense got up by the media; all right? That was the gist of Malcolm Rifkind's response to the grandees' letter in this newspaper on the subject of Europe. Well, that's reassuring. But I'm afraid it's also hokey. The anti-Brussels Tories - whose press fans poured buckets of steaming bile over the grandees yesterday - are now so numerous and well-organised that Norman Lamont must be right in saying that it has become inconceivable that a Tory government would take Britain into monetary union, at least for years ahead. It would split the party so badly that such a government would be likely to fall.

The *Independent's* confederalist blueprint, published earlier this year, shows at least one way in which a secure relationship could be made democratic and not too burdensome. But I've just received an alternative suggestion from Mr John Spencer of Fimlico, who calls for the pound to be integrated with the US dollar instead, adding: "Obviously this presupposes a vast constitutional shift as we move forward to become the 51st state of the Union by, let's say, the tercentenary of the American Declaration of Independence in 2076." Certain "powerful interests in London and Washington", he promises, are engaged on a feasibility study, and he wants to start a new party called America Now. He doesn't seem to be joking.

The best experience of the week, by far, was lunch yesterday with the great Russian cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich. It was hosted by the BBC's *Music Magazine* and the maestro was in formidable form, rattling off anecdotes about Sibelius, Shostakovich and Prokofiev, all of whom he knew. In his younger days - he's 69 - Rostropovich composed music himself; why had he not persevered? Well, he had gone to listen to the first performance of Shostakovich's Eighth Symphony and rushed home to compose one of his own. After a while, he took stock of what he had written. "It was very near to Shostakovich's Eighth... but much worse," said the maestro. Then, in 1945, he heard

Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony... rushed home, wrote a scherzo. "Very near Prokofiev... but much worse." So he stopped and became a conductor, or as he rather alarmingly put it, a prostitute: "In music, I have many loves."

Listening to him were Colin Matthews, whose second cello concerto, written for him, was premiered by the London Symphony Orchestra to wild applause earlier in the week, and James MacMillan, the young Scottish composer whose concerto he premieres early next month. Rostropovich was eloquent about new music and how it often wasn't immedi-

The anti-Brussels Tories, whose press fans poured steaming bile over the grandees yesterday, won't let a Tory government take us into monetary union for years

ately recognised by people. He told a story about going to London to perform Shostakovich's second cello concerto ("absolute genius composition") and to receive a gold medal for the composer. The next day, a London newspaper asserted that had the concerto been heard before the medal was awarded, Shostakovich wouldn't have got it. The moral, perhaps, was kindly aimed at MacMillan, whose first opera got a pretty savage critical bashing at this year's Edinburgh Festival. Earlier, being a bit of a philistine materialist, I'd asked what it actually cost to commission, say, a cello concerto these days. The answer was around £7,000, rising to only £25,000 for a world-renowned composer such as Tippett. If you compare that to advances for books from popular authors, or what top painters can earn per canvas, it seems mildly shocking. Why don't people commission new music more? Britain has, after all, some of the world's most interesting new composers.

Andrew Marr

How to sort out bullying neighbours

Sir: Nuisance neighbours and bullies cause havoc and can cause mental ill health to their neighbours, particularly on densely populated housing estates: "Sin bin" blocks have been created of problem families. These families are passed on to another area and take their problems with them.

Accelerated procedures to secure eviction in cases of antisocial behaviour (leading article, 18 September) are required. However Jack Straw has not made proposals as to how local people, living in the blocks, can be assisted to use their experience to influence neighbour behaviour.

New legislation alone cannot deal with anti-social behaviour. The law-and-order approach is a costly one. Far less costly and more effective is the community development approach, with elected neighbourhood councils. Housing estate tenants are encouraged to help to care for their own communities, including the elderly, children and those at risk. The whole quality of life on the housing estates is improved.

Nuisance neighbours are visited, mediation arranged where necessary. Only in extreme situations which cannot be handled locally will the police or the processes of eviction be used. TEDDY GOLD, Director, School Councils UK, London N3

Sir: Your article "Labour targets liberals on crime" (19 September) outlines Jack Straw's accusation that the Probation Service has "lost touch with public thinking" concerning young offenders.

Youth crime will not be reduced by rigorous enforcement or severe sentencing. Research has emerged indicating that the programmes designed and implemented by the Probation Service perform over 20 per cent better than custody.

Many persistent young offenders have chaotic and often tragic lives; parents and schools will have had little influence and the young person's priority will be surviving in what they see as a hostile world. A comprehensive programme to reduce criminality amongst young people should include guidelines and practical support for those parents who are having most difficulty in raising their children. Political spokespeople, on both sides, manage to reinforce the public belief that only harsher treatment can work.

The public is being misinformed by suggesting simplistic and unrealistic solutions. The Probation Service remains committed to the concept of being "tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime". ARNOLD BARROW, Chief Probation Officer, Suffolk Probation Service, Ipswich

Scandal of child labour in Britain

Sir: The prosecution of a company in County Durham for illegally employing young children (report, 17 September) highlights the situation of hundreds of thousands of exploited child workers throughout the United Kingdom. Evidence from all over Britain confirms the same story - that children, some as young as 10, are working at the expense of their health and schooling. Enforcement of the UK's patchwork of laws on child employment is virtually non-existent, and prosecutions of employers are the exception rather than the rule.

In December 1995 Anti-Slavery International helped to convene a conference at the House of Commons to discuss the issue of child labour in the UK.

But the Government seems determined to press ahead with its own response to the problem, proposing to weaken existing child labour laws by allowing children to be employed on a Sunday. This is not the answer.

We need strong laws, and a strong commitment to enforce those laws. JONATHAN BLAYBROUGH, Anti-Slavery International, London SW9

The beauty of Bath - and the baths

Sir: Like a man married to a beautiful wife for too long, Miles Kingston is quick to see the faults and to ignore the beauty ("A pretty stage set awash with criticism", 17 September).

It may be unreasonable to expect him to realise that the Bath City Council has criticised went out of existence some six months ago in a local government shake-up which merged Bath, Wansdyke and part of Trowbridge. But when he accuses that council of allowing a swimming pool to close as a result of a failure of the council, he could not be more wrong. The closure was actually the result of refurbishment and

improvement scheme. The spa itself was closed for bathing for health reasons some years ago, but the intervening period has seen the opening of a new swimming pool, and the new council, Bath & North East Somerset, has just submitted a bid for lottery funding to recreate the spa for the millennium. TONY DU SAUTOY, Chief Executive, Bath & North East Somerset, Bath



Bonus jokes: Juanita Waterman as Gwendolen in Talawa Theatre's production of 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. Photograph: Format

Wilde card in a play of racial harmony

Sir: Your article on multi-racial casting in the theatre (19 September), prompted by Sonia Whaley playing Nancy in *Oliver*, quotes an Equity spokesman as saying: "I can't think of something like this happening in the West End before."

He cannot have seen the Talawa Theatre's all black cast playing *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Bloomsbury Theatre in 1989. It was a deliciously fresh production of a play all too often weighed down by its own reputation, and it would doubtless have appealed to my grandfather Oscar Wilde, outsider and iconoclast that he was, to see his acute social comment updated.

He could not, however, have anticipated the double entendre in Gwendolen and Cecily's frosty exchange: "When I see a spade I call it a spade." - "I am glad to say that I have never seen a spade," and the bonus joke in Cecily's question to Algernon: "You dear romantic boy... I hope your hair curls naturally," both of which nightly cracked up a predominantly black audience and occasionally the cast. MERLIN HOLLAND, London, SW11

Sir: David Lister surely confuses the

point about black/white casting. When a play or film is about characters whose race is specified and where race is central to the theme, the race of the actor is relevant. But in most cases race is not relevant and there is no reason why a black actor should not play the part of Henry IV or Jimmy Porter.

Drama invites its audience to suspend disbelief. The race of the actors is only a factor in a racist society. Ira Aldridge was a celebrated African American who was renowned throughout the world as a Shakespearean actor. LINDA BELLOS, London N4

Sir: A black Nancy is accepted because audiences can acknowledge that she and Bill could have met and could have become lovers. Try a black Queen Elizabeth I, Victoria or Henry V and you will soon see that audiences are not colour-blind - though they may not be colour-pretended. The context matters. If it doesn't, why can we not see a white actor play Othello - without make-up? COLIN V YOUNG, Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester

New Labour, old Tory, ancient Liberal

Sir: There has been much discussion in your columns suggesting that the new Labour Party is the Victorian Liberal Party reborn.

Surely Tony Blair is a latter-day 19th-century Tory, with his emphasis on paternalism towards the working classes (Shaftesbury,

Disraeli) and "caring", while Margaret Thatcher and John Major are modern Gladstones pursuing stringent financial policies (low taxation, low public expenditure), free trade and unfettered market forces. RUTH WINSTONE, London SW8

Time to write a new role for UN

Sir: The key objective of the United Nations remains, as it was in 1945, to prevent war and maintain peace and international security. But the high-profile failures in Somalia, Rwanda and Bosnia have shown that preventing the internal conflicts of today's world cannot be done by an under-resourced UN alone. A new approach is required.

In this context, Boutros Boutros-Ghali is right that governments have yet to define the role of the UN in the new post-Cold War international order (report, 17 September). Yet amidst the furor surrounding his future, this important consideration appears to have been overlooked.

The UN should be the framework within which a wide range of specialist actors, including UN bodies, governments, regional and non-governmental organisations, churches and businesses, can contribute to the cause of peace. The aim should be to build a network of concern involving the participation of a wide cross-section of the international community. The UN should be the forum which co-ordinates the range of actions, provides their legitimacy and ensures their coherence, consistency and accountability - not least that of Nato in Bosnia.

There is a real opportunity now for the international community to develop a new approach to preventing conflict, which addresses its root causes and enables the building of sustainable peace. The danger is real that this chance will be lost unless governments which have hitherto been reluctant to offer support ensure that the UN has the calibre of personnel and the financial backing it so badly needs. The strongest possible Secretary-General and an effective secretariat are essential. FRANK JUDD, (Lord Judd of Portsea) Senior Fellow, Saferworld, London WC1

Name of the Rock

Sir: Apart from Israel, whose origin in revelation must put it hors concours, none of the examples of countries named after persons, which Stephen Gould gave in his letter (19 September), has the antiquity of Gibraltar's naming after Tarik ibn Zayad as Jebel Tarik, or Tarik's mountain. EDWIN YEATS, Leeds

Fiscal propriety

Sir: John Major is eager to explain the moral basis of his tax cuts. Can he now square the circle, and explain the moral basis of his doubling the National Debt. SIMON BRADLEY, London SE7

QUOTE UNQUOTE

She was always such a badass. She wore cowboy boots, had long blonde hair down to her waist and stole other people's boyfriends - Former classmate of the actress Gwyneth Paltrow, star of the film *Emma*.

If somebody sits in front of a tape recorder over a period of five years and then objects to my use of his words, then what's it all about? - Humphrey Carpenter discussing his controversial biography of Lord Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury

I long to be un-sensible. I long to be wanton - Sue MacGregor of the Radio 4 'Today' programme

We should be very, very sceptical about what we read in the papers - Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin strategist, on speculation of a new IRA ceasefire

Mind you, Hugh Gaitskell was a very good dancer. And to me, that is more important than politics in a man - Barbara Castle, on the late Labour leader

Power-mad, sycophantic, poison dwarf with fruit-bat ears - that's me - Ian Hislop



Audi acknowledge a chequered start

In its first year in the RAC Auto Trader British Touring Car Championships, the

Wing



25 American in
China: Tiananmen
Square revisited

China was seen
by and white
government
people students
want reality

The whole
Lond

W

هكذا من الأصل

The Independent Weekend



Robert Mapplethorpe by Andrew Graham-Dixon page 3

Living



2 An American in China: Tiananmen Square revisited

China was seen in black and white: evil government, heroic students. It wasn't reality

Reviews



9 The houses that sell on the opening of an envelope

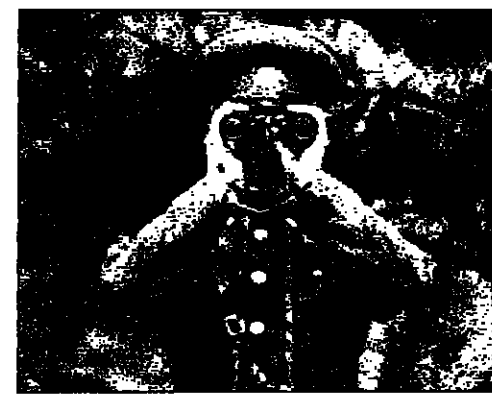
I had clients who lost a house for £100. They put in £427,500 and it went for £427,600

Travel



14 Tamworth, the land where the snow never melts

It's a bizarre place: imagine a shopping centre in the second Ice Age and you'll get the idea



16 The Foreign Office knows best. Or does it?

Once the FO says don't go, holiday companies organise airlifts to bring clients home

LIVING.....2
ARTS.....3-4
BOOKS.....5-8

PROPERTY.....9
SHOPPING.....10-11
GARDENING.....12

COUNTRY.....13
TRAVEL.....14-18
OUTINGS.....19

MONEY.....20-25
GOING OUT.....26

TV & RADIO.....28
TODAY.....28
SUNDAY.....27

The whole truth, nothing but the truth ... in the London Review of Books



'Trench explained that I had a "choice": the cane, with trousers on; or the strap, with trousers off. There was no choice, really, though Trench enormously enjoyed watching me make it.' Paul Foot

WHILE THE rest of the media was debating whether 'a little caning' by ex-Eton headmaster Anthony Chenevix-Trench had ever hurt anyone, Paul Foot was revealing the real depth of his abuse in the London Review of Books. In response to a new biography whose author commended Chenevix-Trench's 'common touch', Foot reported from direct experience that this touch encompassed the

'sensuous fingering of his pupils' buttocks before and during the interminable beatings'.

The London Review of Books aims to deflate the pompous, while seeking the real issues in the headlines. Recent articles include Martha Gellhorn on the deaths of Brazilian children, Jeremy Harding on David Steel's links to Africa's mercenary armies, and the revelation that British lawmakers have unwittingly spawned an illegal network of agencies which facilitate the entry of asylum seekers.

If you prize substance over wishful thinking, subscribe today to the London Review of Books. For those who aren't afraid of the truth, the LRB is required reading. Complete the coupon to enter a trial subscription. We will then send your first six issues absolutely free, as well as save you an additional 15% on the cost of a year's issues.

LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS, 28-30 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HN

POST TO: London Review of Books, FREEPOST, WC3910, London WC1A 2HN, England. No stamp needed if posted in U.K. Please send me six free issues of the London Review of Books and enter my one-year subscription of 24 fortnightly issues at a saving of 15%. I enclose payment now, but I understand that if, after six issues, I wish to cancel my subscription, I can do so and receive a full refund. The six issues will be mine to keep at no cost.

Mr/Ms/Ms/Miss Signature.....
Address Postcode Date.....

RATES: 1 year (24 + 6 issues) 15% off: UK: £42.50 (save £8.10); Europe: £56.10 (save £9.90); Middle East, Africa, India, Latin America: £62.05 (save £10.95); Australasia, Far East: £56.30 (save £9.70)

Tick one: ☐ I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to 'London Review of Books Ltd'. ☐ Access/American Express/Diners Club/Visa card or call: Tel: (0171) 209 1141. Fax: (0171) 209 1151

No.

Card expiry date Signature.....

From time to time you may receive information about offers, services and products that may be of particular interest to you from other organisations. If you would prefer not to receive these, please tick the box ☐ DNB

SIX FREE ISSUES PLUS 15% SAVING ON THE SINGLE COPY RATE

Scents and sensuality

Whether photographing penises or pistils, Robert Mapplethorpe placed sexuality on a pedestal of almost sacramental significance. But what was he really trying to capture with his camera? Andrew Graham-Dixon looks beneath the surface images of the Hayward Gallery's retrospective, while, below, Serena Mackesy eavesdrops on public reactions to Wednesday's private view



Fleur du mal: Robert Mapplethorpe's 'Calla Lily' © 1987, The Estate of Robert Mapplethorpe, from 'Pistils', Jonathan Cape, 1996

Robert Mapplethorpe once said that "the kiss of death, in art, is sentimentality". *Richard*, a photograph taken in 1979, is proof of what he meant by that. It is certainly the least sentimental and most unpleasant exhibit in the Hayward Gallery's retrospective of Mapplethorpe's work. At a glance, placed as it has been on the end of a long row of other pictures, of many different subjects, it looks like it might be a photograph of a scarred wall in some battle-torn place. Then you notice three rather peculiar, bulbous protuberances, two at the bottom and one at the top of the picture. They are blotched and bloated and flecked by traces of a dark stain or seepage of some kind. Because the photograph is in black and white, it is initially unclear whether these shapes are organic or otherwise. Then, with some reluctance, the mind resolves what the eyes have seen. This is a picture of a man's lacerated penis and testicles, strapped into a genital equivalent of the stocks. It is a picture of *Richard*, in *extremis*.

"Sex is the only thing worth living for," Mapplethorpe declared, with bravado. Did he really believe it? We know that even he, polymorphously perverse libertine though he was, decided that *Richard*'s notion of the best good time imaginable was not for him. Patricia Morrisroe, in her recent, anthropologically interesting book about the photographer and his circle, *Mapplethorpe: A Life*, describes the moment when he came to that decision. After photographing *Richard*, Mapplethorpe was told that it was his own turn to submit to the ritual: "He placed the device over his genitals and tried to divorce himself from the reality of the situation, which was that a man in curly wig and tights, who was flying high on LSD, was holding a scalpel in his hands. 'Okay,' Mapplethorpe said, panicking. 'I'm not getting off on this. It's not my thing.' A moment or two later and, perhaps, it no longer would have been."

Mapplethorpe photographed faces and flowers as well as genitalia, but sex will always be the subject matter with which his name is most readily associated. A photograph such as *Richard* testifies to a life spent in quest of unusual and extreme sexual experience. It has the air of a piece of evidence brought back to prove that such worlds of ingenious strangeness do truly exist. But such photographs, although they are what he is known for, are relatively rare

in Mapplethorpe's portfolio. Given his reputation, the majority of Mapplethorpe's pictures now seem almost shockingly devoid of sexual intensity.

Men squat on plinths, human exhibits morosely collaborating in their own aestheticisation. Elsewhere, they are anatomised. A flexed muscle, a shaven head, a smooth, copper-coloured back – elements of the body are dwelt upon, by the photographer, with a cool, dandy's relish. Mapplethorpe sought out men who looked like sculptures and then photographed them as someone might photograph works of art, aiming to bring out the fineness of the detail. Had he lived a different life, the nearly religious qualities of his approach might have been noted more often. Mapplethorpe marvels at the beauty of which the human form is capable, much as earlier, more transcendently minded American artists had wondered at the paradisaical beauty of nature.

Mapplethorpe's pictures of the male nude do not often seem touched by desire. Nor do they seem intended to inspire it in others. Despite the occasional act of calculated outrageousness – the most notorious example of which is the self-portrait in which he photographed himself with a bullwhip inserted, handle first, into his own anus – his imagination had a naturally abstract, almost Platonic cast to it. The people he photographed were archetypes of what he perceived to be either perfection or perfect strangeness. Lit to the point where they are almost overlit, faces in Mapplethorpe's photographs become disembodied, abstracts of physiognomy like the faces of angels. *Ken and Robert*, a hairless white man and a hairless black man, seen bust-length, in profile, are photographic negatives of one another but twins in their weirdness. *Doris Saatchi* is yet stranger, a spottled creature from an apparition, a metallic phantom, with her platinum hair, her melancholy and her air of withdrawn malignity.

The way in which Mapplethorpe's pictures have been displayed at the Hayward leaves much to be desired. The works have been crowded on to the walls and often double-hung. Each one has, by this strategy, been reduced to an element in a curator's collage. This makes the photographs read as information rather than images, and thus denatures Mapplethorpe by making him look like some archivist of the gay

scene – a documentary photographer in the same slight mould as that recorder of the Californian homosexual community, Nan Goldin. The crowding together of his works also fatally obscures Mapplethorpe's chief talent as a photographer, an essentially classical ability to create memorable single images, with something of the quality of icons.

Mapplethorpe brought the same cool and decadent chic to all that he photographed. He was not, as is sometimes claimed, one of the very greatest photographers. But he was an extremely good one. He managed to force his obsessions into an imagery that was, imitatively, his, with the result that he (just as surely as, say, Diane Arbus) created his own homogeneous photographic universe. There is a self-possessed, elegant, prickly quality about all his best photographs. They are not necessarily all photographs of sex, although sexuality is usually implied in some form, whether Mapplethorpe is photographing the pistils of flowers, or a pair of testicular cacti poised atop a great penile vase, or red-eyed Donald Sutherland, looming out at you from the wall like a threat. But, whatever the subject, Mapplethorpe's photographs are all pictures of difference, of a proud and independent weirdness. It is as if, by taking pictures, he hoped to create an alternative world, a place of higher oddity, among whose creatures he himself might live at peace.

His most intriguing and original pictures are his pictures of men's penises, of which, as might be expected, there are many. The penis, as photographed by Mapplethorpe, is like some curious plant that grows unaccountably and extraordinarily out of men's bodies. Paradoxically, his predatory, erectile flowers have more of the expected qualities of penises, while his penises are so exotically weird they seem inhuman, like some parasite species that has managed to graft itself on to the human form. *Man in a Polyester Suit*, a mild but somehow shocking photograph of a man's penis simply hanging out of his flies, expresses this most clearly. The penis looks like an elephant's trunk, not really human at all – certainly not civilised. Mapplethorpe's subject, in photographs such as these, is the gap between our sexual selves and our everyday, social selves.

Because of his complicated, almost touching affection for the penis, Mapplethorpe photographed it in a way that com-

bined close observation with a sense of the sacramental. It was his bread and wine because he recognised it as the least controllable, most autonomous part of a man's body, the part that can drive him to behave in the most extraordinary, unaccountable, outlandish ways. It was outlandishness that appealed to Mapplethorpe, perhaps, more than anything else. It is certainly the single streak running through his work. He photographed people as if they were angels or demons from other worlds. The flowers he photographed are *fleurs du mal*, not the bourgeois blooms of the customary floral still life. Even *Richard*, poor mutilated *Richard*, has a kind of poignancy, once the horror of the image has receded. The image is certainly much more strange than it is erotic.

Freudians tell us that works of art which seem superficially to be about quite different things are really, at the deepest level, all about sex. But Mapplethorpe's work presents a peculiar challenge to such interpretation. The sex in his work is so patent and so blatant, so relentlessly there on the surface, all the time, that it is difficult to end up concluding that it was not, really, a cover for some other, even deeper obsession.

Mapplethorpe was fascinated by sex – loved sex, lived (and died) for sex – not perhaps for sex in itself but because he felt sex, and especially his kind of sex, took him out of the ordinary world and out of his ordinary self. The child of abnormally, aggressively "normal" parents, nothing horrified him more than mundanity. Nothing terrified him more than the notion that he might one day subside into normality (as he would have seen it). The notion of developing any stable sense of self at all filled him with a kind of perverse quasi-monastic revulsion. "When I have sex with someone, I forget who I am," he once said. "For a minute I forget I'm even human."

There is a peculiar form of spiritual ambition here. The libertine wanted, more than anything else, to escape ordinary, quotidian existence. His truest desire was the desire for self-transcendence.

Exhibition continues to 17 November, daily 10am-6pm (8pm Tues/Wed), Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, London SE1

'Now,' said a queenly man accompanied by a trio of hippy dresses, 'wash your hands'

Good old art-lovers. They'll go through any number of hoops to prove they're unshockable. The only hint of controversy at Wednesday's private view was over how to pronounce Mapplethorpe's name. Two men engaged in heated debate as they scaled the Hayward ramp beneath a line of the artist's portraits. "It's May-pul-thorpe." "It's May-pul-thorpe, how come it's got two Ps?" They passed a shiny purple suit holding court with three younger shiny grey suits. "I always prefer," he was saying, "to look at them at home, with my feet up and a nice glass of wine."

What was strange about this particular shindig was how muted the noise levels were. Private views are usually loud, brightly coloured affairs: the art world loves to talk, and generally likes to do it loudly. Not so beneath these looming images: the sight of so many enormous penises in various stages of tumescence didn't actually rob the onlookers of words, but seemed to make them wish to voice their reactions more quietly. There was a certain amount of the old meet-and-greet in evidence, but it was done without the usual accompaniment of flamboyant kisses and cries of delight. The perverse effect of all this sex on the walls was to make the people present unwilling to touch one another.

This effect became more pronounced around the more disturbing images. Take the picture of Lisa Lyon, a torso shot in which the subject is slathered in mud and sports an absurdly bushy public wig. At least, I think it's a wig. Maybe the six-inch-long hair is real. "What," asked a woman with a German accent, "is that supposed to be, in the mind?" Her

companion walked over to the label at the end of the row, misread it and came back. "It's a flower," he said. "Ah," the woman nodded. "Of course."

Nearly, a case containing the notorious X Portfolio pictures attracted slightly agitated attention. Here, the famous "fisting" shot was cleverly, if disturbingly, displayed above a still life of a vase of gypsophila. It's a strange picture: from a distance you can't really see what you're looking at – it could be a rather quirky take on a Norman Foster building, or a shot of sand dunes. The faces of the women were pictures in themselves as they recognised what they were seeing and turned away in Munchian vignettes of souls in hell – eyes bulging, mouths open, chins drawn in. The men tended to respond by bursting out laughing. "Now," said a queenly man accompanied by a trio of hippy dresses, "wash your hands." A young woman glanced shyly at the man beside her – I wouldn't recommend this exhibition as first-date territory. "Do you think," she said, "they have to practise a lot to be able to do that?" A stout gent in a blazer walked away from the case. "Of course," he was saying, "Mapplethorpe was homosexual, you know. Obsessed with the... sexual function."

Around a corner, one was presented with the delightful spectacle of a Modern Parent getting her comeuppance. You know Modern Parents: they have multiple body-piercing, take their children with them wherever they go, and insist on full and frank discussion of everything. This particular specimen had lost one child, who was slumped against a wall with a look of pure disdain on his face. Her daughter

walked stolidly up a line of portraits and came to a stop in front of two sado-masochistic scenes. "Mummy," she said loudly, "why is he doing that?" Modern Parent peered, recoiled and said something palliative. "But, Mummy," her voice rose another couple of hundred decibels, "he's peeing into that man's mouth." "Um... Oh, look," said Modern Parent, "have you seen these lovely flowers?"

Two pictures up, and at last there was something of an explosion. "Jees," cried a woman, "that is so obscene. It's so disgusting. Oh, that's horrible." Whoopee, I thought, at last a bit of the much-hyped controversy. I glanced at the picture at which she was gesticulating as she spluttered. It was a portrait of Arnold Schwarzenegger, clad in bodifying trunks. "God," she continued, "look at those arses. The man's a freak of nature. That is so ugly." Diagonally below was a shot of a snickering S&M-er with a huge slab of wood suspended from his dangly bits. One was reminded of anobscenity case a few years ago condemned Operation Spanner. The police, apparently, chose that soundtrack because anyone who saw the pictures felt his nuts tighten.

I don't know about the whole obscenity question. I have a feeling that a great deal of it is hot air. But one thing's for certain: Robert Mapplethorpe must pose a bit of a threat to the average relationship. Missing over the succinctly named "Cock", in which a vast phallus is gazed by an equally vast fist, a man turned to his female companion. "A fine figure of a penis, that one," he said. "Mum," she replied enthusiastically. "It is." Her face bore that sort of dreamy expression one associates with too much ice-cream.

Where do weekends ALWAYS hit the right note?

Make a break for Manchester, the city with life and soul. The city that never stops. Alive with energy and excitement, like the superb classical season at Bridgewater Hall, new home of the Halle and venue for many internationally renowned acts. Make a break for Manchester. Live life to the full.

For a guide to Short Breaks in Greater Manchester call 0930 133 181 or complete the coupon. (Quits Oct. 1997)

Please send me my free Short Breaks guide.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Send to: Manchester Short Breaks, FREEPOST M9EL9Z, Manchester M1 9AZ. B97

Greater Manchester

reviews

Obscure objects of sado-masochistic desire

There is something unintentionally disturbing about Harold Pinter's weaving of the political with the personal in 'Ashes to Ashes'. Paul Taylor has an unhappy hour

You know where you are with Harold Pinter – in the sense that you can rest assured you won't know precisely where you are. *Ashes to Ashes*, his new play, is set in a room that seems bent on not giving anything away. A perfect riot of beige, it has all the anonymity of hotel accommodation, with its two beige armchairs, two beige tables, and two beige lampshades. If it weren't for the large domestic window, you'd be looking round for the beige mini-bar.

We catch the fortysomething couple who live here in the middle of a charged conversation. Badgered by insistent questions by her current partner, Devlin (Stephen Rea), Lindsay Duncan's Rebecca is describing a sado-masochistic ritual she used to engage in with a former, unnamed lover who would make her kiss his fist and then ask him to put his hand round her throat. In her account of this practice, the difference between compulsion and voluntary compliance gets oddly blurred, just as the relationship between long-term intimates, though it's evidently between long-term intimates, has a sinister snack of that between interrogator and prisoner.

Devlin's obsessive curiosity about his partner's erotic past and Rebecca's use of "subjective" memories in their power game is reminiscent of the situation in one of this author's finest plays, *Old Times*, re-scored here for two voices rather than three. But, in some of the rhetorical tactics and the references, there are also eerie reminders of the inquisitions Pinter dramatised in those short, sharp, shock political plays *One for the Road*, *Mountain Language* and *The New World Order*.

This index-linking in *Ashes to Ashes* between the private and public becomes more explicit when Rebecca recalls having been taken by her ex-lover to see a sinister-sounding factory where a cap-doffing, intimidated workforce are the obedient vassals of unbenign despotism. My colleague Michael Billington's wonderfully well-informed and absorbing book *The Life and Work of Harold Pinter* reveals that one of the influences on the play is Gitta Sereny's brilliant



Stephen Rea and Lindsay Duncan: the Irish lilt raises the temperature, the vacant looks intrigue, but something isn't quite right

Photo: Graint Lewis

biography of Albert Speer, Hitler's Minister for Armaments and Munitions from 1942. The image in that book of the Nazi slave-labour factories, which had only primitive privies overflowing with shit, made a strong impression on the dramatist and it finds its way into *Ashes to Ashes*, we learn, in Rebecca's memory of being unable to find a bathroom during her visit.

The play does not specify where the factory was. Gradually, though, as we hear of such atrocities as babies being torn from the arms of stream-

ing mothers on railway platforms, the Holocaust seems to be more explicitly invoked. Indeed, if Sereny's biography is an influence, an infinitely less elevated work struck me as a possible and embarrassing analogue: *Sophie's Choice*. I say that not just because, towards the climax of the piece, Rebecca has a dreamlike "recollection" of handing over her baby during deportation to a man in authority and of never seeing it again. A more worrying similarity is the connection the play makes between sado-masochistic sexual vio-

lence in a private relationship and the brutalities inflicted in a totalitarian state – the one type of fascism a reflection of the other.

If such an equivalence exists, this play does not persuade me of it. As for the suggestion that all of this could easily happen in Britain – Rebecca tells the vision she had while looking out of a window in Dorset and of seeing guides shepherding crowds of people to their deaths in the sea – I found myself worrying how these mooted comparabilities might strike someone

actually living in a totalitarian regime or, indeed, a Holocaust survivor.

Pinter's production takes about an hour, but the pace of this very static piece is often agonisingly slow (particularly in a passage where Rebecca's words are given a ghostly echo). Lindsay Duncan shifts skilfully between a kind of trance remoteness and sly cat-and-mouse game tactics with her recollections. But, to my ear, the slight Irish lilt with which Stephen Rea delivers his lines dissipates the menace and defensiveness written into their rhythm.

As with much of later Pinter, you may feel at once short-changed and over-stuffed. A niggardly number of details are laden with a stifling weight of latent significance and the portentous thud with which clues are dropped into the proceedings is almost comic, as when Rebecca makes sudden mention of "a bundle" (eventually to be revealed as a baby). The couple's power-struggle sparring over words and meanings – whether it makes sense, say, to refer to "a perfectly innocent pen" – often comes across as tired self-parody.

Emerging from a production of *The Birthday Party*, I once heard a woman saying to her companion: "I wonder if Meg ever realises that Stanley isn't coming back." The more natural query would be to wonder when she realises this. Pinter's plays are, like rituals, so hermetically self-sufficient that they don't invite normal speculation as to the future fate of their characters. *Ashes to Ashes* ends enigmatically with Rebecca perhaps having learnt, through imaginative identification with the suffering of others, the power to resist Devlin's attempts to revive the sado-masochistic practices of her ex-lover. It reflects badly, either on me or on *Ashes to Ashes*, that my concern about what would happen to them ended the moment the play did.

In Wednesday's paper, I was quoted as saying that I had a Harold Pinter problem. This latest piece, does not, I'm afraid, help me solve it.

To 26 Oct. Royal Court Theatre Upstairs at the Ambassadors. Booking: 0171-730 1745

TELEVISION *Caroline in the City* (CA)

Another American sitcom to show us who's comedy boss? Well, no, actually, says Jasper Rees

They say American sitcom knocks seven shades of wit out of its British counterpart. Boy, do they say that a lot. Because comedy is a mercenary business, and not something you can corner off in a paragraph, what they rarely go on to say is why. Sure, we all know that American scripts are densely collaborative, that British comedy mutates its characters into gargoyles, that over there there's a featherlight touch we galumphingly fail to replicate. But it somehow goes unnoticed that what we would perceive as a weakness, American sitcom has made a source of strength.

Take *Caroline in the City*, the latest arrival breathlessly flagged by Channel 4 as the best new thing from America since the last best new thing. Once more, in the footprints of *Cybill* and *Ellen*, we have a single professional woman prone to romantic panic and low-esteem. As in *Cybill*, there's the

brassy, pavement-clever girlfriends who spits bars from the touchline like "I hate to say I told you so. Well, actually, I like saying that." As in *Ellen*, the heroine flits between a chirpy independence of spirit and fretful self-doubt.

These shows might as well be cloned from one another, but somehow they manage to cord off an area in which they can be themselves. This is where the quality gap really opens up. Over here, there's this craving for sitcom content just to be – to be in a bar, in a blue-collar household or, in this case, a cartoonist's studio. The anchor of narrative has been hauled in, leaving the scripts free to drift unfettered around the map of human relationships.

Actually, *Caroline in the City* isn't quite the funniest import around.

Despite or perhaps because of her cute victim's dimples, Caroline has boyfriend trouble. She's just split from the loathsome Del, but as she draws cartoons for his greetings card company, she can't escape seeing him. In part one, they both take new dates to their favourite restaurant. Del's, predictably, provokes a hoary array of cradle-snatch gags. Caroline's, more interestingly, is her new colourist Richard, who steps into the breach to help her prove to Del that she's moved on.

With that drooping android speech earliffed from Frasier's brother Niles and ex-wife Lilith, Richard is the weak link in the chain of credibility. He and Caroline are plainly going to spend the whole series flirting, but the script will have its work cut out to make the union look like anything other than a marriage of opposites arranged for comic purposes. A steal, in other words, from a British sitcom.

THEATRE *Joey and Gina's Wedding*, Café Royal, London

The matrimonial celebration where the audience simply has to join in the fun. By Liese Spencer

The address on the invitation for *Joey and Gina's Wedding* was the Café Royal, but any hopes of a swanky society wedding began to fade as we huddled in the drizzle outside a dark side-entrance. After a few minutes, we were ushered down to a basement and subjected to three hours of hyper-active, interactive theatre.

Looking back, there were warning signs. The publicity note: "If you're at the wedding... you're part of the action!" for one. But it was too late: here we were being greeted by party caterer Frankie Knight and his wife Dolly. Suddenly, everywhere there were "relatives" shaking your hand. Here was Johnny, the bald best man and his brother Vinnie, Lady Joy Wainwright, cousin of the bride and Mrs Elizabeth Granata, the bride's mother.

The nuptials got under way with an introductory speech from Father Francis McCarthy, a priest from the Church of Our Lady of the Serious Wounds. We were gathered together to celebrate the union

of Gina, a cockney girl from Bethnal Green and Joey, the perma-tanned offspring of a family of Chicago hoods. There were late arrivals and comic antics with the candles, speeches and songs. The Bethnal Green dynasty clashed with the Chicagoans. Actors in pimp suits drew improvisational inspiration from Scorsese, women in sequinned shoulder pads paid tribute to Pat from *EastEnders*.

As Hugh Grant will tell you, weddings, with their silly hats and family feuds, offer a gift-wrapped opportunity for accessible costume drama. The social and religious ritual makes for a ready-made theatre that follows conventions as closely determined as Greek tragedy. Like natural disasters, they open old wounds and reveal the true character of various players, arranged in a strict hierarchy of importance from the blood relative leads to gate-crashing bit-part players. They come with a pop soundtrack and lashings of sentimentality.

To this model, director Jay Leggett adds

a catering circus led by an Elvis impersonator and a free meal. Determinedly "in-caricature", the actors worked incredibly hard, drawing on devised and richly detailed back-histories, mingling and flirting with the crowd. Their gross overacting didn't matter much (even at real weddings no one seems able to resist hamming it up) but their solicitousness in drawing you into their world got rather wearing. (In the toilet, I had to chat to the groom's Italian-American grandmother.) There was nowhere to hide, but as they conga'd around the room, most of the audience didn't seem to care.

This matrimonial *Rocky Horror Show* has a steely, smiling Disney-World insistence on the veracity of its fiction. It's the perfect party for people who fancy letting their hair down after a hard week at work, but need to be given some friends and shown how to do it.

Booking: 0171-287 4433

Alan Watts



The Bacardi family enjoys wealth, glamour and a spectacularly successful global business. So why is this proud Cuban dynasty tearing itself apart? John Carlin reports on an unseemly feud

He's one of Britain's richest men, but Phil Collins still considers himself 'an ordinary bloke'. Cole Moreton is granted an unusually frank interview

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



overview

Andrew Bergman directs his own adaptation of Carl Hiaasen's thriller in which Demi Moore fights for the custody of her child, needs a job and thus becomes a stripper falling foul of obsessive right-winger Burt Reynolds.

The BBC leads off its Autumn series with Anthony Thomas's £10m eight-part drama about empire builder and wealthy adventurer Cecil Rhodes with Martin Shaw (and son), Neil Pearson, Ken Stott and Frances Barber.

Sir Peter Hall returns to the National to direct Sophocles's tragedies *Oedipus Rex* and *Oedipus at Colonus* in Ranjit Bolt's translation with Alan Howard, Suzanne Bertish and a masked ensemble company.

critical view

Ryan Gilbey pointed to Moore's real-life daughter playing "a girl traumatised by seeing her mother strip. Not half as disturbing as seeing her get." "A few more clothes and she could scoop the cup for creative dancing at any village folk festival," judged the FT. "Totally disgraceful," observed the Standard. "Moore is less," quipped the Times. "Moderately convincing... pretty average," sighed the Guardian. "Dire," spluttered Time Out. "I didn't think I'd ever be grateful for the presence of Burt Reynolds in a film," growled the Telegraph.

Thomas Sutcliffe was pleasantly surprised by "an African Western, complete with natural disasters, bar-room face-offs, lynch mobs and the frontier spirit." "Time and money well spent... had epic stamped all over it," applauded the Mirror. "An emotionally compelling performance from Shaw," approved Time Out. "The narrative machinery is creaky," worried the Guardian. "This is our licence fee we are watching sinking like the Titanic," admonished the Telegraph. "Nothing mattered very much; all events were just history," winced the Times.

Paul Taylor found it memorable. "Alan Howard's climbing tenor is the perfect instrument for Oedipus." "Dramatically thrilling and spiritually terrifying," heralded the Telegraph. "Superb... the stage pictures are overpowering... the plays come alive," sang the Guardian. "Gripping... Sophocles's moral grandeur with Sophocles's surpassing humanity," saluted the Times. "The hairs on the back of my neck never stood up," mourned the Express. "I doubt if our time will see a superior version," remarked the Mail on Sunday. "Leaves me cool," pooh-poohed the Standard.



ON VIEW

Cart 15, 117 minutes. On general release.

Sundays, 9pm BBC1 with repeats on Saturdays, BBC2.

In repertoire at the Olivier, National Theatre, London SE1 (0171-928 2252)

ON VIEW

Shack with the novel.

The accents will keep French and Saunders in business for months but otherwise, a promising blend of adventure and history.

Stylised and staggering.

هذا من الاصل

Ploughing the sands of opposition

A Labour leader tries to drag his party into the 20th century. Sounds familiar? John Campbell reads a political life with alarming modern parallels

Hugh Gaitskell by Brian Brivati, Richard Cohen Books, £25

When Hugh Gaitskell died suddenly, of a rare blood infection in January 1963, he was as extravagantly mourned as President Kennedy later the same year. To his admirers he was a politician quite out of the ordinary, a leader of vision and integrity from whose loss the Labour party has never recovered. But the contemporary eulogies and the idealised might-have-beens of his disciples should not eclipse the fact that Labour's best-loved leader was also its best-hated. When he died, Gaitskell seemed to be on the verge of leading the party back to power after three long Parliaments in the wilderness. But many – with good reason – blamed him for precipitating the party into opposition in the first place by deliberately provoking the resignation of Nye Bevan from the Attlee Government in 1951, opening a traumatic split which arguably never healed. By 1963 Bevan was dead and Gaitskell had almost put the party back together on his own terms. But the old Bevanites greeted his sudden removal with ill-concealed delight. As Richard Crossman noted in his diary: "Where there's death there's hope." It was Harold Wilson who snatched up Gaitskell's prize.

For years the feud remained too bitter to be written about in any but the most partisan terms. Philip Williams's official biography of Gaitskell, published in 1979, was a work of almost Victorian piety, a blow-by-blow rejoinder to Michael Foot's heroic hagiography of Bevan. Some years ago, I attempted a more objective view of Bevan; now Brian Brivati has done the same for Gaitskell. It is an excellent and timely book – thorough, scholarly and balanced. From a post-Thatcherite perspective the differences between Gaitskell and Bevan – apparently so fundamental at the time – shrink to questions of emphasis and timing; even their temperaments were not so different as their public personalities suggested. If Bevan was, in the immortal terms of 1966 and *All That*, "romantic but wrong," Gaitskell turns out to have been not "repulsive but right" but, on the contrary, scarcely less romantic and just as wrong. Both were, in their different ways, unapologetic socialists. Consequently, both appear today as political dinosaurs.

There is no more thankless job in modern politics than Leader of the Opposition. By the same token Leaders of the Opposition make thankless subjects for biography. The arguments of opposition acquire meaning only when they can be seen as the groundwork for real policies to come. Butler's recasting of Tory policy after 1945 laid the foundations for the Conservative hegemony of the 1950s; the seeds of Heath's failure and Mrs Thatcher's success can be clearly traced to their years of preparation. But the wranglings of oppositions which never



Barbara Castle, Hugh Gaitskell and Nye Bevan at the 1958 Labour Party Conference

come to power are matters of academic interest only. Cheated of Downing Street, Gaitskell is fated to go down in history paired with Neil Kinnock, the only other modern leader to have ploughed the sands of opposition for even longer: nine years to Gaitskell's eight. Brivati makes a good job of analysing Gaitskell's internal battles without getting drawn into Williams's excessive detail. But like Gaitskell's life, his book inevitably lacks a climax.

Gaitskell fought different sections of his party on three major issues between 1955 and 1962. First he set out to modify Labour's fundamentalist commitment to wholesale nationalisation by proposing to revise Clause 4 of the party constitution. The Left's stavistic fury at his daring to touch the ark of their socialist covenant, however, greatly exaggerated the extent of his revisionism. Gaitskell thought it

electorally foolish, as well as intellectually dishonest, to pretend that it wanted to nationalise "every pub and garage" in the country; yet he still envisaged a substantially centralised economy under close public control. With Tony Crosland he believed that modern capitalism had made the question of ownership redundant; but as much as Bevan he took as axiomatic the superiority of planning over markets.

Secondly, he fought the left over nuclear weapons. Despite the second coming of CND in the 1980s, these arguments too seem utterly obsolete today. It is not that there was not, and is not still, a case against nuclear deterrence. But it was argued on one side emotionally, in terms of moral revulsion; on the other patriotically, in terms of national pride and influence. Talk of working for multilateral disarmament was a smokescreen. In this respect Bevan and

Gaitskell were at one, Bevan with his "naked into the conference chamber" speech in 1957, Gaitskell with his "fight and fight again" in 1960. Gaitskell's victory mattered in terms of Labour's electoral credibility, as even Kinnock was ultimately forced to recognise. But all that sound and fury, all those passionate unilateral resolutions and tortuously brokered compromises, made no real difference to anything at all.

Finally, three months before his death, Gaitskell delighted his enemies and dismayed his friends by coming out decisively against Britain joining the EEC. Of his three battles, this is the only one which remains a live issue: his warning that British entry would mean "the end of a thousand years of history" actually anticipated by 30 years concerns which have become widely shared only in the last five years.

The problem is that, as Dora Gaitskell noted in 1962, "The wrong people are clapping." In 1962 it was the left which applauded him; today it is the Tory right which hails his prescience, while his own party has come round to welcoming European integration. The whirling of time breeds strange ironies.

So what remains? Very little, as Brivati sadly admits. From Wilson and Callaghan to Kinnock and Blair, Labour has steadily abandoned everything Gaitskell would have recognised as socialism. Attempts to paint Blair as a new Gaitskell are wide of the mark. Politically, economically and culturally, Gaitskell's assumptions and values have simply ceased to hold: "New Labour" is an explicitly capitalist party. Aside from its other merits, Brivati's book underlines how utterly the world has changed. Thirty years is a very long time in politics.

Gilded creatures on silver salvers

Madonna can't compete with the babes of the Moulin Rouge. Michael Arditti reports

Showgirls by Andrea Stuart, Cape, £18.99

"Nature never fashioned/ a flower so fair" runs a tribute to the archetypal showgirl in Stephen Sondheim's bitter-sweet musical *Follies*. And yet to paraphrase Mae West, one of the prime exemplars in Andrea Stuart's fascinating study of the showgirl-phenomenon, Nature had nothing to do with it.

The showgirl represents the triumph of artifice over both Nature and Art. In our contemporary cultural malaise where to distinguish between high and low art is regarded as invidious, one practical distinction is that, unlike high art which is studied for its own intrinsic value, low art is studied for what it says about the world. Thus Stuart presents the showgirl as a symbol of the major social changes of the late 19th and early 20th century. Happily, she does so with a wit and elegance that suit her subject.

Stuart identifies the heyday of the showgirl as running from the 1880s to the 1930s and her spiritual home as Paris, no one who sets Laurence's paintings of the Moulin Rouge against Sickert's of London music halls can dispute her decision to devote the bulk of her book to the gilded creatures who entranced the French capital: Mistinguett, Liane de Pougy, Colette, Josephine Baker and the female impersonator cum acrobat, Barbette. Even Marlene Dietrich chose Paris as the place to reinvent herself as a stage performer in the Fifties, wearing face-lifting surgical steel needles embedded in her scalp that resembled a modern equivalent of the crown of thorns.

Each performer is examined on her own terms; but certain themes unite them. Most crucial is the showgirl's association with sexual license. From the start, the prostitute was her second cousin... and, at times, her second self. In Paris, the Opera was the city's most exclusive brothel where members of the Jockey Club staged orgies in which ballet-girls were served up on silver salvers. Mistinguett's crowning performance was in the Apache Dance, a *pas-de-deux* for prostitute and pimp. The women themselves were thought to have appetites as extravagant as



Mistinguett: her lover, Colette, wore a golden dog-tag inscribed 'I belong to Missy'

their costumes – not without reason in the case of Liane de Pougy who publicly horsewhipped one lover and made another crawl the length of the Champs Elysées, barking, to prove his devotion.

Sexual allure was enhanced by hints of exoticism. Colette, who was reputed to wear a golden dog-tag inscribed "I belong to Missy", Mistinguett, Ida Rubenstein, Dietrich and others, all dabbled in lesbianism, whilst a potent racial element was introduced by Josephine Baker, who received 40,000 marriage proposals and was reviled as a "danger to civilisation". Stuart notes the popular belief in black women's unbridled sexuality, dating from the exploitation of Saartje Baartman, "the Hottentot Venus", whose humiliations extended after death when her pudenda were cut off and displayed in the Musée de l'Homme. This was a myth that Baker both fuelled and subverted.

Showgirls is both entertaining and erudite, an enticing blend of stage and street history and popular biography. It mixes pertinent comment from writers such as Flaubert and Baudelaire, Capote and Camus, with charming

Xanadu in N.W.2.

Richard Davenport-Hines finds hints of Milton, Pope and Martin Amis in T.S.Eliot's early scribbles

Inventions of the March Hare: Poems 1909-1917 by T.S.Eliot, edited by Christopher Ricks, Faber, £30

"When you were a tiny boy learning to talk," Eliot's eldest sister Ada wrote in her last letter, when dying of cancer in 1943, "you used to sound the rhythm of sentences without shaping words – the ups and downs of the thing you were trying to say. I used to answer you in kind, saying nothing yet conversing with you as we sat side by side on the stairs." With the publication for the first time of a notebook of Eliot's earliest poems, mostly written in the years when he was living in France and England as a graduate student in philosophy, one can see with exciting new clarity the progression of the inarticulate toddler in Missouri into the author of that revolutionary masterpiece, *The Waste Land*. It is, quite simply, splendid to have *Inventions of the March Hare* and to trace the maturing of Eliot's gift for making unforgettable cadences from the rhythm of sentences.

Still, the juvenilia of a great poet always makes dodgy reading. Early, unpublished work can be fascinating in showing the borrowings, parallels, allusions and echoes which form a young poet's ideas. With guidance from a good editor, it is intriguing to discover the ways in which the maturer poet uses the early work as a source of good ideas to be refined and honed. But the publication of juvenilia provides the opportunity for scholarly sleuthing rather than the pleasure of great poetry. Juvenile poems are seldom better than distinguished failures and many are boring or dud. They are best compared with the doodlings of a great artist, essential preliminaries which can be playful, exploratory, clumsy or portentous. Though these early Eliot poems are full of technical and human interest, none of them rival the later work which he chose to collect and republish.

The poet in the making is best glimpsed in such newly published experiments as "Do I know how I feel? Do I know what I think?" This poem begins with restless, ominous lines prefiguring some of the stronger passages in "Prufrock" and "Portrait of a Lady", raises an air of stifled horror and is on the verge of great effects before collapsing into commonplace adolescent angst. The poetic sequence entitled

"Debate between the Body and Soul" is a similar mixture of catchy first soundings for "The Waste Land" and clumsy conceits – there is a particularly ugly passage about a syphilitic spider which sounds more guilty and puritanical than intended.

"My best poems," Eliot told I.A. Richards in 1931, "are possibly those which evoke the greatest number of variety and interpretations surprising to myself." It is a mark of his immature work that when he is most ambitious, straining to widen the variety of possible interpretations by his readers, he seems laboured and self-conscious, as in "Oh little voices of the throats of men". By contrast one of the simplest poems in *Inventions of the March Hare* is also one of the most successful. "Suppressed Complex" describes a woman frightened in bed at night by a shadow in the corner of her room. It is narrated by a man who seems to be her coldly ironic lover but is revealed in the last line to be a ghost.

Eliot wrote of Blake, "his early poems show what the poems of a boy of genius ought to show, immense power of assimilation," and by this criterion, *Inventions of the March Hare* is a superb success. He had a prodigious memory for words and feelings, and by the age of 21 could unify and enrich the ideas of other artists. "The poet's mind," he once wrote, "is a receptacle for seizing and storing up numberless feelings, phrases, images, which remain there until all the particles which can unite to form a new compound are there together."

Arguably, eight despondent lines entitled "In the Department Store" achieve the most memorable effect in this new collection. The chief idea for the poem derived from a superb short story, "In the Cage" by Henry James, but there are phrases referring to a painting of Whistler's, and to lines from Gautier, Milton, Pope, Arthur Hugh Clough, Bertrand Russell and Byron. Christopher Ricks devotes four pages to annotating these sources in a clear, unpedantic way but leaves his readers to form their own conclusions on the mood of the poem. It is a very comfortable affair about a woman glimpsed in a depart-

ment store, ending on a characteristic note of self-lacerating pessimism:

Man's life is powerless and brief and dark
It is not possible for me to make her happy.

The contrast with Auden's "In Schrafft's" – another account of a casually glimpsed woman, whose self-sufficient smile evokes a beatific happiness – shows just how implacably gloomy Eliot could be.

There is clowning in a few poems, notably "The Triumph of Bullshit" and the pornographic *Colombo* and *Bolo* sequence, featuring a cabin-boy called Orlandino, who seems to have been time-warped from a patriotic Victorian melodrama into a Martin Amis novel ("A child of upright character... 'Fuck Spiders' was his chief remark"). But their overall feeling is of the sufficiency of human pleasure and the puniness of human emotional powers.

Eliot does not show off, but one is constantly reminded of the power and purity of his intellect. During the period of these poems he indeed toyed with the idea of giving up English and writing in French. The examples of his bilingualism printed by Ricks – including a new French poem "Petit Epitaphe" – show an accomplishment in both languages which is exceptional.

On his first visit to London in 1911 Eliot made a pilgrimage to Cricklewood. As he was leaving, an Englishman at his hotel asked, "Where is Cricklewood?" and being shown on the map, flashed out in exasperation, "but why go to Cricklewood?" Eliot had a triumphant retort: "There is no reason." The nighttime picnic described in one of these poems – "it's utterly illogical/ our making such a start" – has the same point and the same pointlessness as his trip to Cricklewood. Together the day-trip and the poems show what was so admirable about young Eliot. He had great moral courage – continuously training and stretching his reasoning intelligence even though he believed "there is no reason" – and the originality to find Xanadu in NW2.

6
booksAll you need to
know about
the books you
meant to readMIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN
by Salman Rushdie (1981)

Plot: *The Arabian Nights* meets *Tristram Shandy* to produce a fantasia on recent Indian history. Saleem is born on the stroke of midnight, 15th August 1947: the exact moment of Indian independence.

His life is a fairy-tale. He is raised by rich Muslims who are not his parents. Their son, Shiva, is swapped for Saleem at birth; he is brought up in poverty, while Saleem is doted upon.

Independence, Partition, politics and internecine war are played out between contemplative Saleem and pro-active Shiva. Saleem's family loses money. Shiva becomes a savage military officer. Shiva impregnates Parvati the witch. Saleem marries her as she gives birth to a child "born to a father who was not a father."

Finally, Saleem is made a political prisoner and is forced to have a vasectomy. Major Shiva, also imprisoned, is shot arbitrarily.

Theme: India seethes with chaos: no moral norms appear to operate and the individual is offered the alternatives of resignation or violence.

Style: The prose is rich and spicy: one moment poetically symbolic it can slide into farce or tragedy.

Chief strengths: One of the few recent novels in English to tackle an enormous theme head on, and emerge triumphant.

Chief weaknesses: Rushdie's love of words teeters into self-indulgence. There are moments when the novel is bedeviled in adjectival doldrums.

What they thought of it then: In India, the book was treated with scepticism. The "history" appeared wilfully distorted. The ruling Gandhi family were very cross indeed and Rajiv was one of the first to ban *Satanic Verses*.

In the UK the book made Rushdie's name. It won the Booker and 32,000 hardbacks were sold.

What we think of it now: In 1993, it was voted the best of the Bookers.

Responsible for: Forcing British readers to contemplate the insularity of British fiction.

Adding to the
gaiety of
nationsPeter Parker on the life of a high-camp rebel
at the heart of the 18th-century Establishment

Horace Walpole: The Great Outsider by Timothy Mowl, John Murray, £19.99

It is an interesting fact that a number of the principal monuments of the 18th-century Gothic revival were the products of what might be called a homosexual sensibility: M.G. Lewis's *The Monk*; William Beckford's *Vathek* and Fonthill Abbey; and Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* and Strawberry Hill. The extravagant, gossipy, effeminate Walpole gave every appearance of being a "finger-twirler" (the 18th century's "decent word for sodomite"), but his great 20th century champion and editor, Wilmarth Lewis, insisted that Walpole was entirely sexless. In order to make this claim, Lewis was obliged to explain away a number of Walpole's love letters to men, either as unfortunate examples of the "unmanly abandon" with which men of the period expressed themselves, or – in one absurd case – as "written in the character of one of the mistresses" of Lord Lincoln.

According to Timothy Mowl's genuinely revelatory biography, Walpole had no need to adopt the persona of one of Lincoln's lovers. The two men had conducted a passionate affair, largely on the continent, which ended only when Lincoln was married off for dynastic reasons. Furthermore, Walpole's circle included a large number of homosexual men several of whom twirled rather more than their fingers. All this would be mere fascinating tit-bit were it not for the fact that Walpole was a highly influential figure, not only during his lifetime, but posthumously, as the author of two volumes of memoirs about the reigns of George I and II and an enormous number of letters, eventually published in 48 volumes. These books give a persuasively lively chronicle of the 18th-century, one

which has coloured the accounts of later historians, without being nearly as objective as it pretends. Mowl contends, for example, that far from being the "time-serving old bumbler" he appears in Walpole's memoirs the much maligned Duke of Newcastle was "one of the greatest Prime ministers of the 18th century". The reason Walpole ridiculed the Duke was that Newcastle was the uncle of Walpole's beloved Lincoln and had been responsible for bringing his wayward nephew to heterosexual heel. Thus is history rewritten as revenge.

Another of Walpole's great loves was his cousin Henry Conway, whose advancement he successfully managed. Despite an inglorious military career and no very great political gifts, Conway rose through Walpole's influence to high government office. Walpole was the son of a prime minister and served as an MP, but he preferred scheming to direct political action, and became a sort of *eminence grise*. The combination of his patronage of Conway and his scurrilous pamphleteering nearly put an end to his career when he was "outed", as Mowl puts it, by a political enemy. He survived the scandal, however, to publish the hugely popular *Otranto* and throw open Strawberry Hill to the public.

Mowl maintains quite rightly that Walpole's homosexuality is crucial to any proper understanding of the man's life and work. His determinedly forthright approach to the subject, while laudable in theory, in practice leads to some problems of register and a number of unwise generalisations. Referring to John Chute, one of the so-called "Committee of Taste" responsible for the building of Strawberry Hill, as a



Horace Walpole: He ended his days doting upon small dogs

Picture: Hulton

"defiantly affected old queen" seems fair enough, but to conjure up the dubious image of "a typical 'queer' victim" seems unfortunate and, in the context beside the point. Mowl's airy assertion that "outstandingly beautiful men" are likely to be bisexual is not, alas, tenable, nor is it true that "the plain are usually normal in their sexual proclivities". Mowl warns us against "political correctness", but what we have here represents a failure of common sense.

Of Gothic revivalism, Mowl writes that, while "there was no covert conspiracy to subvert wholesome classical design", a style, dependent upon elaborate ornamentation "may have had a particular attraction for homosexuals". He attempts to illustrate this point by listing a number of "bachelor architects" involved in the revival (not all of them homosexual), but the real point is that, in Christopher Isherwood's famous formulation in *The World in the Evening*, Gothic is camp about architecture. "True High Camp

always has an underlying seriousness," one of Isherwood's characters explains. "You're not making fun of it; you're making fun out of it. You're expressing what's basically serious to you in terms of artifice and elegance." Walpole's life, his writing and his building projects exemplify high camp, or what Mowl calls "deviant aesthetics". These aesthetics proved highly influential, popularising both the Gothic novel and an eclectic style of architecture later embraced by the Victorians.

In his opening sentence, Mowl warns that Walpole was not "in any normal sense, a pleasant and acceptable person". He is nevertheless one who has exerted a "dubious fascination" over his biographer. That fascination has produced a lively and absorbing book, the flaws of which are outweighed by its considerable merits. Half intrigued, half appalled, Mowl describes a life that was far from exemplary, but which certainly added, in every sense, to the gaiety of the nation. The most sympa-

thetic person in the book is poor besotted Thomas Gray whom Walpole treated abominably. The irony is that had Walpole behaved any better, Gray would not have become a melancholic and written his famous elegy, which Walpole himself published by way of reparation.

Mowl's subtitle is well chosen. Walpole was "a potent rebel in the heart of a nation's establishment", to which he was linked by his family but from which he was distanced by his nature. There are parallels here with that other great rebel whose work was inextricably linked with his sexuality, Oscar Wilde. As with Wilde, it was Walpole's equivocal relationship with the society through which he so observantly moved that made him such a good commentator on its fashions and follies. He had a stronger sense of self-preservation than Wilde, however, and he ended his days doting upon small dogs, rather than feasting with panthers; a happy ending of sorts.

Educating Archie

Did Cary Grant know John Major's dad? Christopher Bray investigates

Cary Grant by Graham McCann, Fourth Estate, £16.99

Well, well, well. Earlier biographies of Cary Grant have cast aspersions on his sexuality and his less than gallant treatment of women. But Graham McCann has come up with the foulest defamation yet. "It is, in fact, not entirely unlikely that at some point during [his residence in Brixton] Archie Leach may have come into contact with Tom Major-Ball." That's right: Cary Grant may have been matey with John Major's dad.

For those of us who have long thought of Grant as a platonic essence far removed from our everyday dust and drudge, such worldly theorising may be hard to swallow. But there is no gain-saying the fact that, like the Prime Minister's father, Cary Grant once earned his living as a circus act. At a wild guess, Cary was probably the more graceful performer under the big top.

Cary Grant was probably the silver screen's most graceful man. There is a moment, early in *To Catch A Thief*, when Grant stands immobile for a half-minute, one leg casually locked straight, the other placed gently forward, bending over so slightly at the knee – for all the world like Michelangelo's *David*. And the point is that Grant isn't posing. The embodiment of democratic class, Cary slipped easily into stances like that.

He slipped into clothes too. Nobody ever wore a suit quite like Cary Grant. Who would not kill for the dove-grey two-piece he wears throughout *North By Northwest*. Hitchcock's two-and-a-half-hour dressing-down of Grant's smugly superior Madison Avenue man. Attacked by a crop duster, forced to flee a bottle of bourbon, sent hurtling down a mountainous coastal road, falling off Mount Rushmore: Grant went through hell in that movie. He deserved it.

What Hitchcock had spotted in Grant is something critics have only latterly caught up on: the maliciousness lurking beneath his veneer of charm. Looking closely



Cary Grant: the silver screen's most graceful man

at a Grant love scene and notice that deadness in his gaze, that distancing rigidity, that immobility of visage: Grant looks more like a vampire about to sate his lusts than he does a lover about to caress.

Suspicion, Grant's first movie with Hitchcock, is built upon this schizophrenic persona. Is Grant a ne'er-do-well on the make? Has he married Joan Fontaine merely for her fortune? Is he planning to do her in? In the original screenplay the answer was an emphatic yes, and Grant was only too happy to go along with it. But the studio dictated that Cary Grant could never be a bad guy and the movie ended up pulling its punches. Hitchcock and his star, however, were artists enough to stick with the original premise right up to the picture's absurd denouement. Grant's charmer is as vacuous and vain as any the movies have given us. It takes guts to play such a thoroughly bad lot – or was Grant aware that audiences were too busy swooning to criticise him? Probably he did. Unlike most actors, Grant was no underhead. He was the first star in Hollywood to go free. From his early thirties on, he never made a movie he didn't want to. He knew the image he wanted to present, and he was damned if he'd appear in movies that would undermine it.

That image – urbane, relaxed, effortlessly charming – bore little resemblance to his background. A child Leach was born in Bristol in 1904 in a poor working-class household. When, as nine, his father had his mother committed to an asylum. A couple of years later,

young Archie was thrown out of school (nobody seems to remember why) and apprenticed to a tumbling act. Next came the Brighton years, and then a tour of the US. Archie Leach was taken with the place and decided to hang around. Soon he was headed for Hollywood.

Like most fantasies, Cary Grant was born out of a desire to be rid of the past. His accent, clipped yet casual, was socially and geographically unplaceable. "Nobody talks like that!" Jack Lemmon says to a Grant-mimicking Tony Curtis in *Some Like It Hot*. Maybe so, but who can say they have not tried to? "Everybody wants to be Cary Grant," Grant once said. "Even I want to be Cary Grant." Perhaps that explains the personal archive he kept all his life – as if he couldn't believe what he'd become.

His rootlessness carried over into his work. Few and far between are the Grant movies where his character is given much in the way of background or family. When he is, in Howard Hawks's *Monkey Business* for example, the whole point of the movie is to question and undermine those ties. Only once, in *None But The Lonely Heart*, did Grant play a character with similar social origins to his own. It was a rare flop.

Graham McCann tells Grant's story well in this fine book. He has marshalled his sources well and produced a marvellous work of synthesis. As Hollywood biographies go, it is a very good read. If you want one book on Cary Grant, then this is the one.

The thinking man's musical linoleum

Edward Pearce tunes into the Third Programme

The Envy of the World: Fifty Years of the BBC Third Programme and Radio 3 by Humphrey Carpenter, Weidenfeld, £25

Radio Three, Network Three, the Third Programme – the earnest channel of the BBC is a topic at once exhilarating and melancholy, indispensable and insufferable, a thing created by the old shirt-fronted, nostril-arching BBC which was yet a better thing than the Murdoch-sensitive axis of John Birt, Mr Blobby and Chris Evans. Radio Three is an irritant and a delight, the Third a folk memory of remote and a loftily announced ancient names: "Produced by Douglas Cleverdon, devised by D.G. Bridson, music written by P. Racine Fricker and performed by Noel Mewton-Wood, parts played by Carleton Hobbes and Stephen Murray." Oh my Herbage and my Tiller long ago...

Humphrey Carpenter, in a brief vacation from a busy life annoying the Church of England, has produced a history of an organism only 50 years old this year, but with all the archdeacon's, factions and scandals you could ask for. William Haley the ur-founder wrote a memorandum under the heading "Title": "Many suggestions have been made, simple and recondite: Arts Programme, Programme C, Droitwich Programme, Minerva Programme... I think we are not likely to do better than to adopt the already publicly adopted The Third Programme."

During a commercial panic at the rise of television in the late Fifties, it became "Network Three" and lost a lot of time. (Though not Radio Minerva, it flew by night, with its start put back to 8.00 pm.) It also had drawn up for it a memorandum of the hobbies and other useful scraps which could be substituted for Sir William's high culture, addressed to "persons of taste, of intelligence and of education". The memo listed the following as suitable subjects: "5. Decoration of walls/floors/ceilings, i.e. mosaics, frescoes, murals, etc. This might make three programmes. 6. Specialised cooking. 7. Indoor gardening, e.g. Window boxes, pot plants, Japanese gardens etc."

The BBC coming to terms with commerce is never a pretty sight. But fortunately the Bonsai-and-cake-decoration period was a mere interim between Haley's high culture (which no-one in the Chris Evans era should deride) and

the thinking man's musical linoleum of today. Perhaps Radio Three will be sold to Stagecoach and required to advertise bras and fish fingers, but as with Covent Garden, the friends of a public good have a way of rallying round, writing to the *Times* and getting non-accountancy treatment. The bankrupt, sterile Garden isn't worth the unfairness it enjoys, but some of us would pay a higher licence fee to have Tallis and Tippett (or a recent pleasure from Three) a sensitive documentary play about the short sweet life of the English composer, Gerald Finzi.

(What may undermine Radio Three as a music programme might just be the best small recording companies. If commerce can give you, as Naxos does, 17th-century Portuguese liturgical music or the flute quartets of Fredrik Kuhlau – both delightful – for a fiver, it trends on the heels of Three.)

On music, Carpenter is interesting and gossipy, but agnostic. He charts neutrally the rise of William Glock and a regime of sub-Soviet prescriptions, of compulsory Boulez, non-optional Maxwell Davies. He also records the response to this of Hans Keller and Robert Simpson. Keller had written in 1956, of the avant-gardist clique, "they have never yet discovered a bad work written in it. Every single dodecaphony piece is praised for some reason or other; apply to Webern and you can't go wrong." Sir John Drummond at his last Night of the Frogs, commanding a filling-jangler of random noise from Birtwistle before coming on stage to accept a piece of bent metal which he described as significant modern work, is the logical fulfilment of Keller's judgment and a reminder that nobody working for money would do anything so silly.

Simpson, a real composer, sent Glock a memo after a grotesque overrun of a Maxwell Davies piece – "What kind of composer is it that can miscalculate the length of his own work by some 45%?" – and discounting "an almost featureless mass of squashed Schoenberg". People had not left the hall in shoals because of bizarre effects, he added. "It was pure tedium engendered by lack of invention and lack of genuine motion

that drove them out." It remains a sad illustration of the weakness of public service broadcasting that the Glock-and-after regime excluded so much and imposed so much from the 20th century and that Simpson, who had focused Bruckner and practically discovered Nielsen, walked away. Ironically, after a recorded cycle of Simpson's nine symphonies have been acclaimed, Radio 3 characteristically marked his 75th birthday with silence.

The avant-garde was made a magnificent monkey of in the brilliant drama series of the Fifties which, starting with *A Very Great Man Indeed*, was wrong from the tragic Henry Reed. He immortalised Elizabeth Lutyens, discordant in conversation and composition, as "Hilda Tablet", composer of the all-women feminist opera, *Emily Butler*. She nearly sued. A glorious memo on Reed's difficultness chatters "He is naturally lazy like most writers, finds working for the BBC the easiest way of making an income and takes a peculiarly malicious pleasure in writing as close to the deadline and to the decency line as he can... On the other hand, there is no doubt that over the past ten years, Reed has been the outstanding individual contributor to the Third Programme..."

But though the Third chuntered, it wasn't a bad old stick. The scientist Fred Hoyle who had fascinating things to say, had, after one talk on the Home Service, been delated. He must not be used again, the science editor had written, because of his strong Yorkshire accent. Peter Laslett, then moonlighting between Cambridge and a BBC producership, listened to him in a Cambridge tea shop, got him back through the Third and won unprecedented public attention for the expanding universe.

Radio Three has its faults – self-love, an almost clerical intrigue – but an organisation which commissioned Hilda Tablet and *Under Milk Wood* and hired Peter Laslett has a lot to be said for it. So has the present Three under a decent, uneccentric controller, Nick Kenyon. Good luck to it. In our rising sea of anti-culture, we need all the elites we can get.

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography, Religion,
Poetry, Children
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED TO
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 OLD BROMPTON RD, LONDON SW5 8DD

Mail order Michelangelos

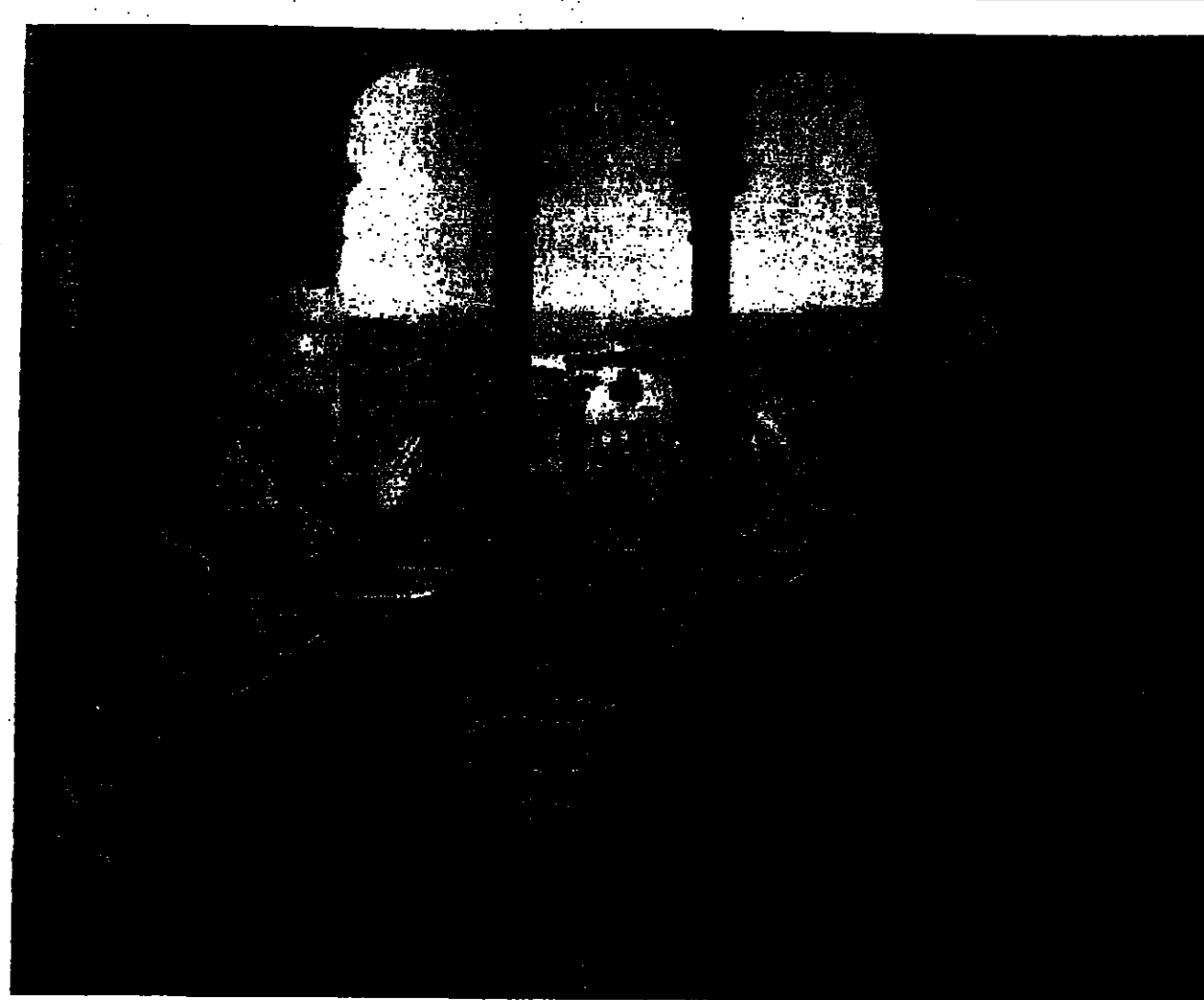
A new study presents the Renaissance as 'a breath-taking cargo of costly gifts'. By George Bull

Worldly Goods by Lisa Jardine, Macmillan, £25

This cornucopia of a book seems like the Renaissance historian's Neiman Marcus Christmas catalogue as I remember it, that defiant yearly celebration of extravagant consumerism. Its breathtaking cargo of costly gifts – mink-lined helicopters, well-stocked zoos, Caribbean islands – is the 20th century equivalent of Lisa Jardine's lavish display of worldly goods from Renaissance stores: Papal alum mines, triumphal arches, huge tapestries, illuminated manuscripts, books printed on vellum, priceless gems and thoroughbred horses. These products of advancing technology and circulating wealth were, as often as not, portable and useful as well as sumptuous, proclamations of power and prosperity as well as aesthetic miracles. Among those who protested against the mercantile spirit of the age was the divine Michelangelo who, though he loved horses and Tuscan wine, admonished the Pope for wanting the Sistine ceiling re-touched with gold for fear it should start looking poor, because the Biblical figures depicted in it were poor themselves.

The austere spirit of Michelangelo – who refuted the idea that an artist should keep a shop – and the Catholic Reform movement (which counterpointed the Reformation) is absent from these fascinating pages, but it was Michelangelo's devoutly Catholic biographer, Giorgio Vasari, who noted in his life of Perugino that the arts were perfected in Florence because in this city minds were sharp and criticism was rife, hard work and making money were essential to survival, and the very air generated fierce competitiveness and the thirst for glory. The passion for material possessions, combined with a multitude of mixed motives for cutting a fine figure, was one of the powerful sources of Renaissance creativity.

Richard Goldthwaite, in his *Wealth and Demand for Art in Italy* (1993) gave a fresh twist to the spiralling historiography of the Renaissance as he elaborated the central task of his study, "to view art in the larger context of the world of goods of which it is a part... to say something about the new consumption habits of



City of merchants: view of a Flemish town by Van Eyck c.1435

Picture: Bridgeman Art Library/Louvre

Italians that produced a major change in their material culture... change that was fundamental to the development of the west." Lisa Jardine's book (or as she calls it, her "project of redefining the achievements of the European Renaissance") develops this, exploring the reader to "take to heart the fierce pride in mercantilism and the acquisitiveness which fuelled its enterprises." She takes us

from Crivelli's *Annunciation with St Emilianus*, in the National Gallery, to the rationale of Luther's protest against the scale of indulgences. She simply demonstrates that "acquisitiveness" was "among the defining characteristics of the age which formed our aesthetic heritage."

Politically, today seems just the time for a rousing defence of "consumerism" against the hypocrites and ideologues.

Historically, of course, there was far more to the Renaissance than that, as Jardine reveals, almost despite herself, through the range of her provocative book, as it moves from considerations of currency and printing to the advent of business-linked professional specialisms and the formation of a worldwide "culture of commodities". It's a bonanza, rather than a reduction.

Following fictional footsteps (by taxi)

Christina Hardyment joins literary mission

Quest for Kim by Peter Hopkirk, John Murray, £15.99

It should have been a marriage made in heaven. Peter Hopkirk has an unparalleled knowledge of Kim country, the high hills to the north of India, where wise pundits and wily pathans have been playing out the "Great Game" of espionage for well over a hundred years. Indeed it was *Kim*, read when Hopkirk was "a highly impressionable, schoolboy of 13 – the same age as Kim himself", that, he tells us, did much to determine the course of his life.

In the 1950s he could get no closer to eastern approaches than the oriental bookshops off the Charing Cross Road. At last, in the 1960s, now a *Times* journalist, he managed to get posted east. After that he spent all the time he could spare from his career in mapping out the country and the culture in a series of books that are rightly renowned.

What could be more perfect than Hopkirk setting out to echo A.J. Symonds' brilliant *Quest for Corvo* by applying similar literary detection techniques to *Kim*? To be blunt, an author who knew less and, for that very reason, told his readers more. Someone with the advantage of "beginner's mind", the intense excitement of first finding out that gives a book like Symonds's, or Richard Holmes's *Footsteps*, such an engaging freshness of vision.

But *Quest for Kim* is full of good things. In an enthralling opening chapter, Hopkirk whets our appetite with quotes from such distinguished admirers as T.S. Eliot, Mark Twain and Wilfrid Thesiger, tackles the matter of Kipling's rotten modern image, and champions his work gamely.

He is also good on Lahore, where the story starts with Kim

perched on the great gun Zamzamah outside the "Wonder House" of a museum. Its curator was based on Kipling's own father; and there is even a model for Kim: a by-blow of an Irish sergeant and a beautiful Tibetan girl who reputedly turned up with an amulet of documents around his neck in a Darjeeling bazaar in the 1870s.

But when Hopkirk gets out on the road and into his own familiar territory of the clandestine side of the British Survey of India that one gets a sense of being short-changed – in part, no doubt, because he feels that he is repeating himself. So the book's greatest weakness is what should have been its greatest strength: the journey across Northern India which is the backbone of *Kim*.

There are occasional triumphs – two Iranian spies hobbling across the Punjab with suitcases – but altogether too many physical cop-outs. "Unlike Kim and the lama, who slept out on the bare hillside, I spent the night in Mussoorie" and "leaving Kim and his caravan heading down to Saharunpore, for their route is far too vaguely described to try to follow, I went instead by road."

Proper literary detectives don't just quibble over real or not real; they live the books they love. Hopkirk needed more nights under the stars, more encounters with the thousand and one characters that make India the "bewitching and bewildering land" that he tells us it still is. To be fair, some of this *lacuna* is explained by the revelation that two-thirds of his way through writing the book, Hopkirk had the bad luck of losing "my entire set of notes for the remainder of the book."



THE INDEPENDENT



INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

Lunch for £5, Dinner for £10 at CAFE ROUGE RESTAURANT BAR CAFE

Take advantage of this great culinary offer with The Independent and the Independent on Sunday and savour a taste of France at a very special price.

We have joined forces with Café Rouge, the restaurant chain that offers straight-forward French cooking at value for money prices, to offer you the chance to sample the new autumn menu at a unique rate. Together with a friend, you can enjoy a two course lunch plus coffee, worth up to £13, for just £5, or a three course evening meal plus coffee, worth up to £18, for just £10. Service is included in both prices.

There are 65 Café Rouge restaurants, located in England and Scotland, which are participating in our offer. For further details, see our list below.

How to Qualify

To qualify for the offer, simply collect three differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing in The Independent and Independent on Sunday. If you have a Starter Token, it can be used instead of a numbered token, but only one Starter Token can be used to make up your token collection.

Attach your three tokens to one of the special vouchers printed in the paper and take it to your nearest Café Rouge between 30 September and 13th October inclusive, to enjoy one of our two offers – lunch for £5 or

dinner for £10. You must identify yourself as an 'Independent/Café Rouge Voucher Holder' and present your voucher and tokens on arrival at the restaurant. You will be given a copy of our exclusive menu detailed on this page.

Today we print Tokens 1, Token 2 will be printed in tomorrow's Independent on Sunday. Vouchers will be printed on Monday 29, Thursday 26 and Sunday 29 September.

If you want to try both our superb offers of lunch for £5 and dinner for £10, you can do so. Just remember to collect three differently numbered tokens plus a voucher for each offer.

Tokens can be redeemed at any time between 30 September to 13 October 1996 inclusive.

Terms and Conditions
1. The offer entitles two people to either Lunch for £5 or Dinner for £10 when a voucher and three differently numbered tokens are presented at one of the Café Rouges listed in our promotion.
2. Only one Starter Token can be used instead of a numbered token.
3. The cost of drinks is not included in either offer and a 12.5% optional service charge will be added to the cost of any drinks or purchases additional to the offer.
4. Photocopies of tokens and vouchers are not acceptable.
5. The offer is valid from 30 September to 13 October 1996.
6. For readers who have an Independent/Café Rouge promotional postcard, this qualifies as a voucher. It can be redeemed at any



CAFÉ ROUGE RESTAURANTS:

LONDON: Battersea, Blackheath, Canary Wharf, Chelsea, Chiswick, Clapham, Crouch End, Dalwich, Ealing, Earsfield, Fetter Lane, Fulham, Fulham Palace Road, Frith Street, Hampstead, Hays Galleria, Highgate, James Street, Kensington, Kew, Knightsbridge, Limeburner Lane, Maids Vale, Old Brompton Road, Portobello,

Putney, Richmond, Sheen, Southgate, Shepherd's Bush, Strand On The Green, Wandsworth, Wellington Street, West Hampstead, Whiteleys, Wimbledon, St John's Wood.
OUTSIDE LONDON: Aberdeen, Bath, Beckenham, Birmingham, Brentwood, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury,

Chelmsford, Dorking, Edinburgh, Esher, Glasgow, Guildford, Harrogate, Henley, High Wycombe, Kingston Hill, Knutsford, Loughton, Manchester, Oxford, Pinner, Reigate, Staines, Sunbury, Weybridge, Wilmslow.

If you are not sure where your nearest Café Rouge is, simply call 0171 478 8042 for details.

THE INDEPENDENT SPECIAL OFFER MENU

£5 Lunch

Hors d'Oeuvres
Salade de Merguez
Sauté of Warm Spicy Sausage with Red & Green Peppers
or
Salade de Bleu d'Auvergne aux Noix
Little Gem Lettuce with Blue Cheese and Walnuts

Plats Chauds
Salmon Grill
Béarnaise, Pommes de Terre Rissolées
Grilled Salmon with Rissolées Potatoes & Béarnaise Sauce

Poulet Rôti au Gratin Dauphinois
Roast Breast of Chicken with Dauphinois Potatoes

Filter coffee

£10 Dinner

Hors d'Oeuvres
Soupe de Poissons
Mediterranean Fish Soup with Crostons, Rouille and Gruyère cheese
or
Terrine Maison
Pât of Chicken Livers flavoured with Madeira. Served with Bread

Plats Chauds
Navarin d'Agneau
Traditional Lamb stew cooked on the bone
or
Marmite Diaprise
Normandy First Slice of Stuffed Mussels, Prawns and Salmon finished with Mushrooms and Cream

Desserts
Oranges Caramélisées
Caramelised Oranges, Caramel Ice Cream
or
Profiterole Sauce Caramel
Profiterole filled with Vanilla Ice Cream, Buttercream Sauce

Filter coffee

12.5% Service Charge included



books

A bunch of mad Marigolds

Muriel Spark's dreams are her characters' nightmares. William Boyd reports

Reality and Dreams by Muriel Spark, Constable, £14.95

"He often wondered if we were all characters in one of God's dreams." Thus begins Muriel Spark's short story, "The Man in the Hat," the "he" doing the wondering is Tom Richards, a film director of some renown, who is recovering from a serious accident – a fall from a crane during the shooting of his latest film, *The Hamburger Girl*. And this is about as profound as Tom gets: most of his waking moments are spent thinking about himself – his future projects, his love affairs and his wife and family.

The mazy and improbable plot centres on Tom's relationship with Marigold, his daughter from his second marriage. Marigold is plain, difficult and demanding and an air of mutual dislike colours their attitudes to each other. Coral, Tom's daughter from his first marriage, by contrast, is beautiful and can do no wrong. Claire, Marigold's mother, airily tolerates Tom's egotism and his regular adultery. The family congregate around Tom after the fall, commiserate and go on their merry ways. Tom's film is put on hold, redded, then, after he has recuperated, starts up once more with Tom restored at the helm. Tom has an affair with his leading lady, Rose Woodstock, alienates another dysfunctional actress called Jeanne and presides over the several misfortunes of his daughters and sons-in-law.

It's all slightly ditty and eccentric with a *La Ronde* style of serial infidelities adding a certain spice. Things get serious, however, when Marigold disappears. The alarm is raised, the media are alerted, a world-wide search is initiated and eventually Marigold is found disguised as a man living with some New Age travellers. It was all, it turns out, a way of tormenting her horrible father. Except that, mysteriously, a taxi driver companion of Tom has been shot at and nearly killed. Was this Marigold's doing?

By way of compensation for his paternal neglect Tom casts manly Marigold as a prescient Celt called Cedric in his latest absurd movie, set in Roman

Britain, called *Walling Street*. Curiously, (but then perhaps not; this is the movie business after all) Tom persists in recasting Rose Woodstock and Jeanne in this new film. Jeanne, now druggy and unhinged, becomes a compliant agent for Marigold's wiles. Marigold, still nurturing murderous thoughts, decides to kill her father by re-enacting the original crane accident, only this time with more fatal efficiency. Jeanne is engaged as saboteur but the plans go tragically awry.

Summaries of Muriel Spark's novels do them a misservice. What delights principally is the tone of voice – so enviably assured, such a distinct signature. In this novel, the point of view is omniscient; we visit whichever character's thoughts suit the Sparkian design. The voice is cool and spare, and in complete disinterested control: "The youth recounted his experience with Marigold but said they had parted shortly afterwards. He did not discount that Marigold was perfectly capable of hiring a hit-man if the plan suited her. The police eventually believed the boy, whose name for the present purpose is irrelevant, and let him go."

The disinterest can shade into ruthlessness. There has always been a nail-parring objectivity about Muriel Spark's authorial style and it provides delectable pleasures throughout her work, *Reality and Dreams* included. This aloofness can breed a certain air of cynicism or fatalism and gives rise to the darkness that seems to haunt the story. Tom and his brood are lightweights, whose lives and concerns, from one point of view, seem almost nugatory.

Are they mere figments in one of God's dreams? We can detect a God-like presence hovering over the action of the novel but it is that of the author: these characters are characters in one of Muriel Spark's dreams. The dream/reality, fact/life theme is further enhanced by the fact that Tom's films all start from his dreams; he makes these films "real", through the wholly unreal medium of film. Just as the plot slips and slides, and the characters' various fates chop and



Muriel Spark: her narrating voice is as distinct as a signature

change almost at whim, so too does our sense of the reality of what we are reading shift and blur. There is, in the end, only one person who can make sense of the whole can of worms – the artist.

However, in *Reality and Dreams* the controlling role of Muriel Spark is a little too overt, I feel. Her unique sensibility functions best when the voice is subjective, the point of view confined or in first person, as in her two wonderful late novels *A Far Cry from Kensington* and *Loitering with Intent*. This method localises, and validates, that clear-eyed, unabashedly, brutally honest gaze on the world and its denizens. Omniscient narration has the opposite effect. Perhaps in this elderly century (Spark toys with this notion) the

predetermined, the ordered, is fundamentally inimical.

Reflecting on his dream notion Tom concedes that, "Our dreams, yes, are insubstantial; the dreams of God, no. They are real, frighteningly real. They bulge with flesh, they drip with blood."

The dreams of Muriel Spark, as we have seen in her exemplary oeuvre, are frighteningly real also, and bulge and drip to great effect. *Reality and Dreams*, however, is a little muted – a certain shadowiness detracts from the real frisson. But if we have to do have Muriel Spark in her full symphonic majesty, we can still relish the real pleasures of this work on a smaller scale – a nocturne, say, a suite, a variation on certain themes – as we wait for the major work to resume.

Meeting the neighbours Umbria style

William Riviere enjoys a novel steeped in Italian lore

The tradition of English writing about Italy is a wonderfully rich one, (good Italian writing about England being disappointingly rare,) and Barry Unsworth's new novel, *After Hannibal*, is a most welcome addition to it. The scene is set in Umbria, a province which the author clearly knows with an insider's knowledge, along one of the rough roads winding through the hills, muddy in winter, dusty in summer. These roads meander from farmhouse to farmhouse, from hamlet to field, from church to wood and on again, generally petering out just when you thought you were getting somewhere. But getting somewhere, in this Italy and in this novel, is not often desirable and still less frequently possible. And the point about this particular road is that it links the lives of the diverse cast of characters who have their houses dotted along it.

The story is seamlessly told, and it starts with a wall tumbling into this road, and a squabble which in consequence breaks out between a family of local farmers and an English couple who have recently bought one of the linked houses. There are a number of foreigners living along this road as well as Italians not native to the region. And on a superficial level, *After Hannibal* is about the tragic-comedy of the newcomers' incomprehensions and set-backs. It is about their ruinous dealings with crooked surveyors, project managers and builders; and about their being saved, some of them, by the splendidly diabolical lawyer Mancini.

Unsworth knows his Italian land law, its delays, loopholes, injustices, absurdities, and uses. He paints a portrait of its speculators and innocents vividly, but there is a lot more to the novel than this.

The two most interesting characters are Professor Monti, a historian of mediaeval and renaissance Umbria, and Anders Ritter, a disillusioned interpreter who after a nervous breakdown has come to live in an old farmhouse and till the land. Unsworth writes well in this novel about a range of matters from Italian painting to Hannibal's victory over the Romans on the shores of Lake Trasimene, from money and mean-heartedness to the Umbrian vegetation and the magic of its sunlight. But he writes best of all when Monti is brooding on the apparently endless recurrences of vainglory and savagery in the history of Perugia; or when Ritter is trying to come to terms with his father's having been an Intelligence Liaison Officer during the war, and involved in the massacre of 335 Italian civilians in the Ardennine Caves.

Unsworth writes dispassionately about the clans which dominated Perugia when it was a free state, about the cycles of murder and counter-murder – the preferred method generally having been the stabbing by several men of one unarmed man. He writes with the same sombre, direct plainness about the later misuse of the place by Papal Legates.

Here is Monti, musing: "The destruction of the Baglioni houses

After Hannibal
by Barry Unsworth
Hamish Hamilton, £16

had signalled the end of the oppressive rule of that lawless and arrogant brood; but the government of priests that followed had been a tyranny crueler, more systematic, far worse. Forced labour, crippling taxes, torture as a customary practice, people shut away for the slightest offence, for no more than a wrong word, in the horrific cells below him, cavities hardly big enough to admit a crawling figure. The iron railings surrounding the Great Fountain in Cathedral Square had been garished continuously with decomposing heads."

Or the same man, after a seminar: "Of course, there were pitfalls in this game of patterns; one tended to lose the sense of their provisional nature, to believe they expressed a settled truth. Patterns were imposed on the flux of events; they were arbitrary and creative, they reordered the world. It was good if this reordering cast light, but vital that it should soon be discarded or modified or merged into something else. All the great pattern-makers had held on too long – Hegel, Marx, Darwin, Freud. A rigid insistence on patterns was the mark of an arrested mind."

But my favourite is Ritter on his smallholding, with his awareness of "words somehow slithering and twisting away," of how "any madness could win the day in a war of words," hacking his way through the undergrowth down a ravine toward a truth that has lain hidden there since the war.

The strands of this novel are woven together with consummate skill, so naturally tangled thickets and gullies with their secrets are as important in it as they are essential to the charm of the Umbrian countryside.

"Blame and pity blended and became diffused among the stems of the cane, the beauty of their colours. These formed a subtle register of age, going from green through pale yellow to dark ivory and bone white. To several were still attached the dead vine tendrils of some old cultivation, pale brown in colour with a faint purplish tinge, hue of their death. They had curled round and clung and died in this clinging, the ultimate expression of their being. Now they were hard and brittle, like thin bone, impossible to separate from the stem."

After Hannibal is beautifully written, with a strong sense of artistic proportion, and with humour. You don't end up minding enormously about the characters. You end up having been brought to think again about savagery which have been committed, but not being moved by them. On the last page, one is smiling at the genius of an amoral, often helpful lawyer. But Unsworth's dispassionate writing has its strengths, which are objectivity and control, and its virtues, which are irony and sympathy.

Crimplene headscarves and high street grotesques

Charlotte Cory's tale of small-town greed doesn't hit the jackpot for E.Jane Dickson

Knibden, the setting for Charlotte Cory's *The Guest* is "a town founded in folly". The Great Knibden Lottery established by royal charter in the reign of Charles II has skewed the destiny and demographics of the town for generations with its massive awards of cash. Eventually, the solid citizens of Knibden abolish the prize draw, reasoning that "any truly fortunate gain should always be explained away by some tale of hard work and accomplishment. Winning a lottery is too unequivocally lucky."

But dreams of unearned riches are solidly meshed in the town's folk memory and when a mysterious stranger dies in the Galimore Hotel, leaving a fortune to an unnamed party, *le tout* Knibden is once again "in hopes." Under the fiendishly cryptic terms of the will, only "someone-who-is-

The Guest
by Charlotte Cory
Faber, £15.99

not-someone" can solve the riddle and name the dead guest's heir.

Enter Hester Jones, a friendless orphan from out of town. Hester, with her "plain little pancake face" and matching personality is duly elected Public Investigator. The situation, as the author points out, has all the drama of a whodunnit without the disagreeable mess of a murder. The spirit of *Chuedo* is also invoked and indeed Colonel Mustard, Miss Scarlet *et al* could walk the streets of Knibden and not a dog bark at them.

On first sight, Cory's character's are starkly emblematic. There are

Michael Milady, the Ur-theatrical who once trod the boards with Montague Cayke and his Astonishing Franchising Dogs, the Rev Gilbert Sibson, as hapless a curate as ever cracked an egg, Susie Till, the seductively bra-less hairdresser, the barking General Ben-susann and Miss Bird, the mother of all embittered spinsters.

In the course of Hester Jones' investigations, however, each "suspect" is fleshed out with a full personal history, skeletons leap jangling from every cupboard, and long stifled consciences are pricked and the body count is positively Jacobean.

The stranger who rides in from nowhere to open a can of worms is a reliable convention, but its success depends largely on the charisma of the stranger. Hester Jones is no Shane, no Becky Sharp; with her faithful creation

of someone-who-is-not-someone" Cory shoots her narrative in the foot.

This may of course be intentional – the novel fairly hums with literary subversion – but the game, in this case, is not worth the candle. Without a clearly defined voice to marshal the parade of Knibden's grotesques, *The Guest* very quickly loses momentum. The lengthy elaborated fable of the historic lottery, for all its contemporary relevance, keeps coming adrift from the story and no amount of characters crying "Isn't this business of the Dead Guest's will just like the Great Knibden Lottery?" can remedy this.

Cory is an exuberant, inventive and, at times, frankly exhausting story teller. As the narrative goes cantering back three generations into a minor character's history,

you long for Hester to cut to the chase. There is enough good stuff here for a boxed set of *The Knibden Chronicles*, but crammed into one novel, the effect is mildly claustrophobic.

Cory is at her best when she stands back and observes; alone in her dead parental house, Hester "sits on bare floorboards like a toddler with no toys." A sloppily poured drink has her licking her hand "like a dog with a wounded paw". Her distinguishing style however, is a self-conscious quaintness, a peculiarly English mustiness, redolent of Scotch eggs and hairnets.

Over four hundred pages this begins to chafe. Crimplene is a marvellous material for establishing all kinds of things from zeitgeist to social standing. A Crimplene headscarf is a signifier too far.

Paperbacks

Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst

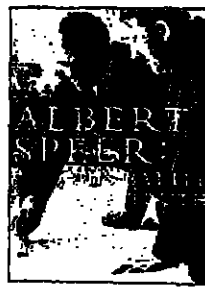
Sabbath's Theater by Philip Roth (Vintage 6.99): Philip Roth's latest menopausal male, the devilishly selfish Mickey Sabbath, refuses to accept the dying of the light. His mistress dead from a massive heart-attack, and his alcoholic wife about to leave him, he orchestrates a set of impossible challenges designed to bring him to the edge. Mickey Sabbath is the kind of American male that leaves the Richard Ford school of "sensitive guys" looking distinctly wet behind the ears. Very dirty and very funny.



Journey through a Small Planet by Emanuel Livinoff (Robin Clark, £6.00) The planet is a patch of the East End, where the author's parents arrived from Odessa, despite boarding a boat for New York. Passionate and brutally honest, this slim memoir has an exceptional vivacity. Its pages magically onude the "sour smell of London", but there is scant sentimentality here. Livinoff's *inamorata* is seduced by a Yiddish actor, his dapper stepfather emerges as a compulsive gambler.



Albert Speer: His Battle with Truth by Gitta Sereny (Picador, £9.99) Though present at the Nuremberg war crimes trial, Sereny says in later years she "knew and grew to like" Hitler's second-in-command. Because he was recognisably human, Speer makes a far more fascinating subject than the monsters who achieved prominence in the Reich. At the end of this enthralling study, he admits to "tacit consent" in the murder of the Jews, despite previously denying involvement. Sereny says that such words would have hung him at Nuremberg. In a strange twist, prompted by a late love affair, Speer reneged on his admission. A towering work.



Naturalist by Edward O. Wilson (Penguin, £8.99) Elegant and laconic ("I am blind in one eye and cannot hear high-frequency sounds; therefore I am an entomologist."), this memoir by a top US scientist merits a readership far beyond the scientific community. We learn that his purlindness results from a fishing mishap with "perchlike, voracious Lagodon rhomboides" when seven. Far from putting Wilson off the natural world, by 15 he was wrestling a cottonmouth viper ("It twisted through my fingers and unfolded inch-long fangs"). At 67, his enthusiasm is undimmed: "So far, my surveillance [of a Florida ant hill] has lasted 60 years."



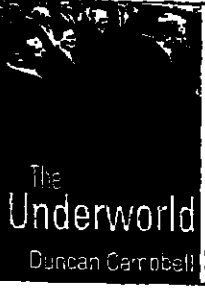
Beyond Berlin by Penelope Nelson (Allen Unwin 7.99): Gunther, Romy and Hannelore are strict when it comes to commune rules and Libby Milroy realizes that what was acceptable behaviour in downtown Sydney will not do in Seventies Berlin. Checking in her camel-hair coat for a goat-skin jacket, she's soon attending fire-arms practice with the best of them. For those who suspected that life with the Baader Meinhoff gang wasn't much fun, Nelson's novel will only confirm the worst.



Ship-Shod Sibyls by Germaine Greer (Penguin, £9.99) This bulky exploration of female poets combines much stimulating criticism with views so outrageous they would be excised if the author were not so famously formidable. On page three, she opines: "The most successful poem of my generation was probably: 'Eat a/Extra/Egg a/Day', written by a woman." Fortunately, Greer's perverseness is more than outweighed by her brilliance in extirpating forgotten female poets.



The Underworld by Duncan Campbell (Penguin/BBC, £6.99) From the Blind Beggar to Brinks Mat, the sagas of gangland Britain have become as familiar as fairy tales, but Campbell tells them with wit and a keen eye for detail. We learn that Frankie Fraser was hindered by his "straight" parents, "If they've been to prison, they can help with contacts." Fifties razor gangs rubbing shoulders with the "Mafia Inglesa" of the Costas ("the sort who like to be judges in Miss Wet T-shirt contests"). All great entertainment, unless you happen to be a security guard drenched in petrol or a bystander blasted in a pub "hit".



Yesterday in the Back Lane by Bernice Rubens (Abacus £6.99) After murdering a would-be rapist in the back lane, Bronwen Davies goes home to tea and gets on with her *Middlemarch* homework. It's only when the murder weapon (her aunty's best carving knife) comes into action on the Christmas turkey, that the true horror of what she's done sinks in. But, being the war, and being Christmas, there never seems a good time to speak up. Fifty years later Bronwen is still living with her secret. Booker Prize winner Bernice Rubens' funniest novel to date.



Offers

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

KAY'S BOOKS

Offers in an envelope, please

How sealed bids can help you win — or lose — your dream house. By Penny Jackson

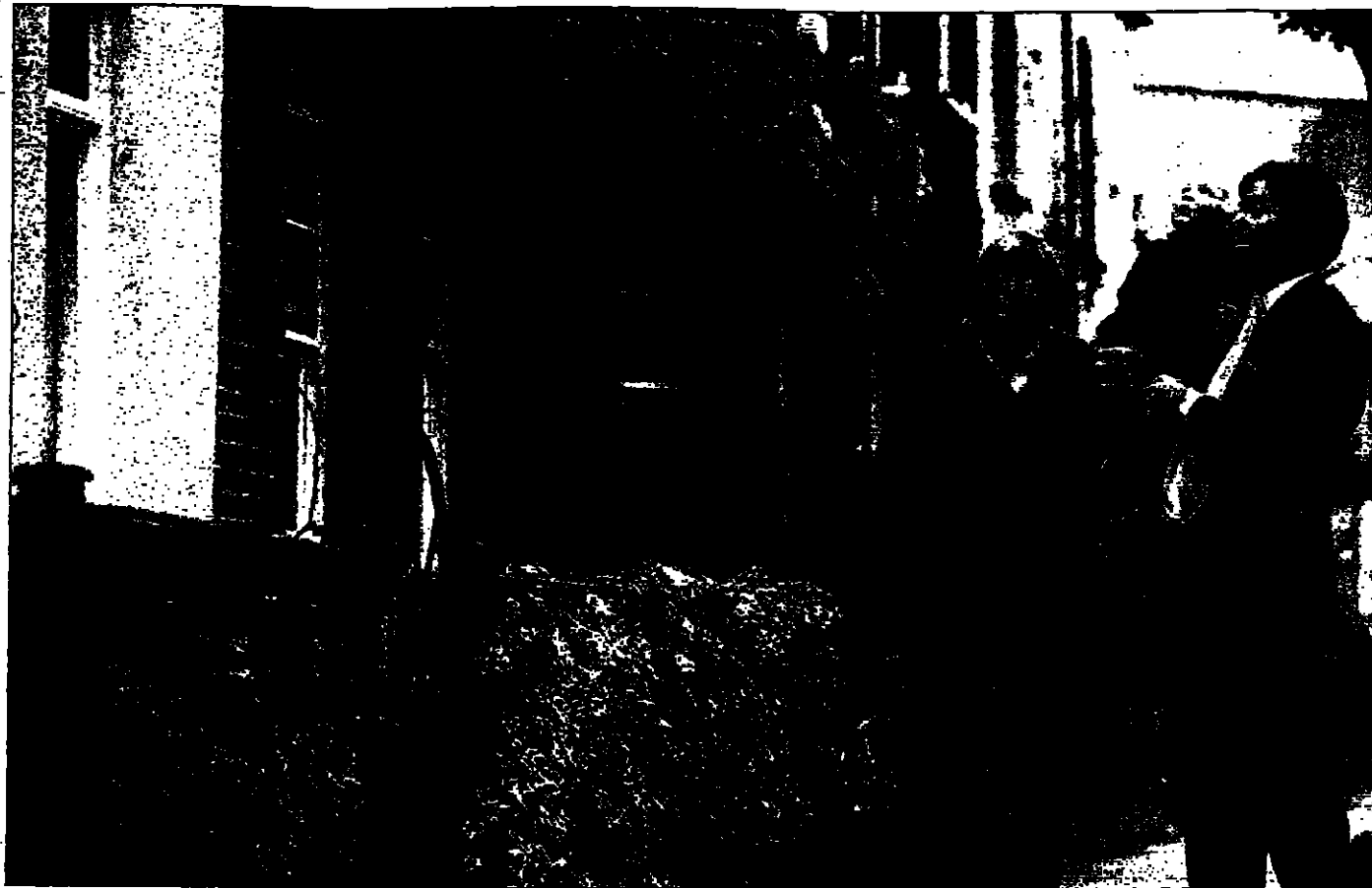
For the second time, the house you really wanted — four bedrooms, large garden, just down the road from the school — has been whisked from under your nose. Apart from panic, what do you do? The shortage of good family houses, particularly in London, has brought a growing number of people to this point. The chances are they will have been involved in a process of "best and final offers" or "sealed bids".

If you are Jonathan Hewlett, you swallow your disappointment, move in with your in-laws and, with nothing to sell, trust you will be in pole position when the perfect house comes along. At least Mr Hewlett does not have to rush back to his property consultant for advice — he is one. As a director of Savills he finds the scenario familiar, though not, until now, at a personal level. "There were three or four people after the house and so I suggested we went for sealed bids because it seemed the fairest way. We lost. My wife was very disappointed. But, with hindsight, I was not absolutely committed to it. In fact it is not uncommon for people to bid for a house that they know other people want, and then, when they win, decide that it is not for them."

At the time the Hewletts joined the bidding their own house was not yet under offer, so they were not in a strong position. "If I had been advising a client, I would have said that it was too early to commit to a price and timing. And it is worth remembering that the vendor does not have to take the highest offer, but the best, taking into account all the circumstances. We exchanged contracts with our buyer this month, anyway, because I did not want to get caught in a long chain. Now we can be totally flexible."

Mr Hewlett offers the following tips to buyers caught up in competition. Keep the agent informed, and make sure your solicitor can move swiftly. Your finances must be in place; decide on your maximum bid and give it your best shot. He suggests turning the figure into an odd number; it may just have the edge. And don't worry about what the other bidders will do: it's a waste of time.

Sara Graybow, a director in Hamptons' Clapham office, knows how bitter the loss can be when a small figure is in question. "I had clients who lost a house for £100. They put in £427,500



The Hewlett family hunting in Battersea
photo: Glynn Griffiths

and it went for £427,600." But there can be bitterness in victory as well. "I also had a client who won a house this way but then discovered he had paid £50,000 more than his neighbour, who had also just moved in. That is why it is so important for people to decide how much the house is worth to them. Sealed bids are awful for the buyers, so they must be sure they are doing the right thing."

Paul Taylor, from Hamptons' Knightsbridge office, recommends that buyers get a survey done

before the bids go in. "It is also a good idea to get your solicitor to deliver the bid."

But what to do if the best houses never even get on to the market? In the present climate, agents will ring round a hot list and by the time the particulars are drawn up the house is spoken for. "Keep in touch with your agent. Make sure they know you are not time-wasting. It's no good expecting to hear of something good if your own house is not even on the market."

Philip Blanchard, director of John D Wood's country residential property, hates sealed bids. "It's a cheapskate way of doing your job. I'm paid to get the best price for my client, not wait for envelopes to be opened." He advises vendors to go for private auction. "I have just sold a house for £500,000 more than the asking price. We did it over three days. Everyone knew the sums involved, so it was completely fair, and no one can say it wasn't worth what was paid for it."

Househunter

Blackheath Park, London



Regency house on the Cator Estate in Blackheath, south-east London, has just come on to the market. Blackheath Park, a Grade II-listed house built in 1820, was the home of John Newton Mappin, the cutter of Mappin & Webb. The seven-to-eight-bedroom house is on four floors with four reception rooms, three of which open on to a terrace overlooking a 240ft, T-shaped garden with a hard tennis court. According to Winkworth, the agents, house prices in Blackheath have risen by 16 per cent over the past year and the area, with north Kensington and Fulham, heads their London table. The asking price is £850,000 (agents: 0181-852 0999).

The most unnerving experience I had Jacqueline Ironside of Ironsides, a specialist letting company, can remember is when a clerk was told by a departing tenant that the inventory was not complete. "I am afraid I am going to have to leave without my snake. I can't find it anywhere."

House hunters daunted by piles of paper can take some comfort from an initiative by Jackson-Stops & Staff. The agents' Chichester office has been putting its whole property register on the Internet for the past 10 days, with other offices around the country following on soon. Michael Brandon, who is in charge of the operation, says: "It is so convenient. We have a vendor in Hong Kong, for instance, who has checked the picture and details of his house for the cost of a local telephone call."

Tel: 0171 293 2222

property • residential

Fax: 0171 293 2505

London Property

LITTLE LONDON
MILL STREET SE1

IN LONDON'S TOWER BRIDGE QUARTER "LITTLE LONDON"
IS A SELF CONTAINED URBAN VILLAGE SET AROUND AN ITALIANATE COURTYARD, OFFERING AN ECLECTIC MIX OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AND LIVING OPPORTUNITIES

GOODHART BUILDING 2 BEDROOM ULTRA MODERN LOFTS FROM £157,995	LUXURY APARTMENTS & PENTHOUSES FROM £136,995
COOPER'S YARD APARTMENTS IN A RESTORED EDWARDIAN PUBLIC HOUSE FROM £157,995	TRINITY COTTAGES DELIGHTFUL VICTORIAN COTTAGES FROM £136,995

IMPECCABLE SPECIFICATION READY TO MOVE-IN FIRST RELEASE THIS WEEKEND

FOR DETAILS CALL
Hadley Cooper Associates
0171 363 1144

London Property

DUNDEE WHARF

Developed by water on the world class river, the Dundee Wharf is one of the last great developments on the river. It is adjacent to Canary Wharf and is one of the last great developments on the river. It is adjacent to Canary Wharf and is one of the last great developments on the river.

PRICES FROM
2 bed waterside apartments from
2 bed waterside penthouses from
3 bed waterside penthouses with sky views

SAVILLS
0171 488 9386

London Property

POST-RECEIVERSHIP SALE
LARGE MODERN LOFT APARTMENTS, MINUTES FROM THE CITY

Space, light, high specification and ideal location, don't come any cheaper than at City Pavilion. Acquisition from Receivers enables us to offer to offer large bright modern lofts in a landscaped courtyard setting, for less than original build costs. Final release includes Duplex penthouses with roof gardens, and lofts with terraces.

- 1/2 mile from Broadgate • All with terraces or roof gardens
- Duplex Penthouses with exceptional views • Secure parking

70% SOLD IN 2 WEEKENDS! FINAL RELEASE THIS SAT & SUN

LOFTS WITH TERRACES AND PENTHOUSES WITH ROOF GARDENS
1,250 sqft plus - from £129,995

FOR DETAILS CALL ALAN SELBY AND PARTNERS HOLDINGS 0171 613 3055

Retirement Homes

SHORE
Maintain your independence in retirement within the perfect living environment created at "Midholme", East Preston on the tranquil West Sussex Coast.
£129,950 LEASEHOLD
Come and see these luxurious apartments at our "OPEN DAY" on Wednesday 25th September from 11 o'clock onwards with our local florist giving a talk and demonstration on "Flowers in Apartments".
FIVE only left of these spacious apartments: all benefit from Lounge and Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, high quality kitchen with all main appliances included and Garage.
Contact Jane Musgrove 01903 859490 for brochure and further information.

Mortgages
MR KIRBY STEPHEN - A member of the National Mortgage Lenders' Association. Specialist in all types of mortgage. Call 01753 854241.

North of the River
EALING Large comfortable bed-sit for n/a per person. Every convenience. In Ealing. 5 day let. £48 per incl. 0181 857 7277

Portugal
WINDMILL On half acre with traditional cottage. Lower Alentejo, Portugal. O.P.R.O. £20,000 Tel: 0171 701875

A selection of elegant Victorian mansion flats on this attractive tree lined avenue within a few minutes walk of Kensington High Street and close to two underground stations.

Windsor Avenue, London W14 Three bed semi detached flat with private garden, close to transport, schools, shops, etc. Price: £250,000. Leasehold: 99 years remaining.	Windsor Avenue, London W14 Overlooking the parkland, this spacious three bed semi detached flat with private garden, close to transport, schools, shops, etc. Price: £250,000. Leasehold: 99 years remaining.	Windsor Avenue, London W14 Light top floor four bedroom flat with two bathrooms, close to transport, schools, shops, etc. Price: £250,000. Leasehold: 99 years remaining.	Windsor Avenue, London W14 Spacious, well maintained, a very high standard, three bedroom flat with two bathrooms, close to transport, schools, shops, etc. Price: £250,000. Leasehold: 99 years remaining.
---	---	---	---

To advertise in this section please call the Property Team on 0171 293 2343/2302.

Country Property

WILTSHIRE
Lively village, 6 miles Bath, convenient access M4. Spacious house, excellent decorative order. Polished oak floor, internal stained glass, wonderful views. 1/2 acre, stream, pond, trees. Large garage plus hardstanding.
Bouss - Tinsdale Wood! £135,000 freehold. Tel: 01225 742128

For Development

Burdett Estates Ltd.
Specialists in multiple bedroom accommodation units. Purpose built for single occupancy and fully furnished. A superb, efficient way to solve your accommodation. Short/medium contracts available - all inclusive. Fixed price from as little as £20 per room per week. Space required for 28 bed block 45m x 10m to include utility rooms, toilet and shower block.
Free site survey without obligation.
For further details and free colour brochure call
01543 454098
01922 743724 (24 hrs)

Ireland

COUNTY KERRY
TO LET
Converted farmhouse fully furnished with large garden and conservatory. Superb position overlooking lakes and mountains near Kenmare. Sleeps 4. Short or Long term lets from October.
Contact 00 353 64 83158

Spain

SPAIN
Nestled between the mountains and the sea. Wonderful location in beautiful first growing countryside. Small village house with roof terrace panoramic views. 1 hour drive to Sierra Nevada Ski resort. One hour to beach at Mar de Sol. Bedrooms. Half hour to Granada and the Alhambra. Ideal setting and pristine country in need of some refurbishment. Rooms for sale. Couple separating. £10,000. 0181 455 1651

shopping

Say it with stone

By Hamish Scott

Though tucked away behind the village post office, Lloyd's Stonemasonry in Great Bedwyn is not difficult to find. Outside the little shop, news boards proclaiming the latest sex and poaching scandals in north Wiltshire are interspersed with monumental tablets, headstones and discarded angels' wings. Around the corner, in the yard itself, the building's eaves are virtually encrusted with corbels, busts and tiles. Behind a hi-tech ornamental fountain in the garden, a carved biplane sits incongruously in a flowerbed. "Anything in stone, marble or granite is our line of business," John Lloyd explains. "This collection has just grown up as a sideline."

Mr Lloyd is the seventh generation of his family to work as a stonemason in the village. His father, Ben, was an inveterate collector, offering a home to neglected tombstones and unwanted statuary from all around the county, whilst two centuries of apprentice works and commissions that have never been collected have added further to the strange museum. Soon, a giant pineapple carved by a local student will be hoisted up on to a gate-pier of the yard's entrance, once Mr Lloyd has found some greenstone for its foliage.

The nature of the business has inevitably altered with the years. Monumental work for churchyards was formerly the main concern. Lloyds are still well known for such skills and Graham Bowley, the senior stone-carver, is currently engaged in lettering a slab of Cornish granite for a grave-stone. Having worked at Lloyds for more than 30 years he is proficient in the old techniques, first carving out the letters with a chisel, then beating in thin strips of lead that will be etched and polished before painting. "It's time-consuming," he admits, "but it gives a finish like no other." However, diocesan authorities are increasingly resistant to memorials that do not conform precisely to a pattern, and are imposing a black granite uniformity over the nation's churchyards. The biplane was a victim of this policy. Commemorating an early hero of the Royal Flying Corps, it was originally in a private burial ground that was scheduled to be redeveloped. The parish church refused to find a space for such a joyous aberration, but in its final resting-place at Lloyds it is at least respected and appreciated.

Fortunately the decline in monumental masonry has been more than compensated for by the growing popularity of traditional materials amongst gardeners and interior designers. Aside from the occasional 'experiment' to add to the collection, Lloyds work entirely to commission, producing hand-carved urns and benches, balustrades and fountains that are made to individual designs. Moving with the times, John Lloyd will occasionally even condescend to use reconstituted stone. "Some of the new materials are quite convincing," he concedes, "but the best are almost as expensive as the real thing, and they never weather properly, or get more beautiful as they grow old. They just look dead and dull." He prefers, whenever possible, to use indigenous materials in any outdoor setting and waxes lyrical about the joys of working natural stone. "You have to listen to its ring. If the note changes, then you're doing something wrong. The stone will tell you what you can get away with, so long as you respect it."

It is in the recent fashion for stone floors that Mr Lloyd notices the worst examples of disrespect: Portland slabs so thin that they can be snapped across the knee are laid on wooden boards or bedded into concrete. "Concrete shrinks, stone doesn't," is his succinct comment.

As a craftsman rather than a salesman, Mr Lloyd is sel-



John Lloyd: a growing popularity for traditional materials

Photograph: John Lawrence

dom loath to give his opinions to potential clients, having no desire to waste his time on the impractical. When asked to build a marble bathroom or a granite kitchen, he prefers to have the raw materials standing in his yard long enough for him to notice any tiny flaws before commencing work. He knows his quarries as a vintner knows his châteaux, and can recognise the finest marble from a mountain's higher slopes, or limestone taken from too near the surface. Such perfectionism may be scarcely cost-effective, but then Mr Lloyd's favourite warning to apprentices who cut corners to save time is that they may end up as accountants.

Stone has always been a valuable material and mistakes can prove expensive. Contrary to popular belief, masons do

not chip away artistically, adapting and creating as they go. Designs are first worked out on paper and models may be made in plaster before any chisel is applied to stone. The work cannot be rushed; every curved edge of a kitchen work-top must be laboriously formed by instinct, hand and eye. Even when the work is finished, "there's always time to knock the end off," as Mr Lloyd wearily observes. The constant need for such perfectionism may perhaps explain a certain anarchistic streak that has always been apparent in stonemasons. Mr Lloyd's collection includes some curious not suitable for popular display: copies of strange carvings found in the dark and high recesses of old churches where the details of a mason's work were unlikely ever to be

noticed. Given his mild irritation with the church authorities over their drab policy in graveyards, Mr Lloyd is understandably delighted by one old carving that he recently discovered. Viewed from the eyeline of the pulpit, it is no more than a bunch of flowers. "But if you get up a ladder, you wouldn't believe what's going on down there... it would bring blushes to the vicar's face!" He roars with laughter at the thought, a man who relishes the secrets to be found in stone.

John Lloyd, 91 Church Street, Great Bedwyn, Nr Marlborough, Wiltshire. Tel: 01672-870 234

Something old, something new

By Robin Dutt

Junk-shop chic is the creed, and After Noah the name that husband and wife team Matthew Crawford and Zoe Candlin chose for their shop – they liked the implication that they would sell absolutely anything post-diluvian. Upper Street, Islington – the King's Road of north London – was where they decided to found their business. Success came swiftly, and earlier this year they opened a second shop on the real King's Road in Chelsea.

Both shops are characterised by their delightful clutter. Thirties industrial-style ceramics in that ubiquitous canteen green, restored Bakelite telephones, and tools one can't immediately imagine a job for, cover the surfaces of tables and chests of drawers. Fun furniture sits comfortably alongside more serious and solid pieces, and the air is perfumed with beeswax candles and herbal soaps.

Down a steep staircase you can find anything from a Twenties coat button to a kitsch decorated rubber washing-up glove as used today. After Noah brings

a whole new meaning to eclecticism.

But, of course, it would not have been enough simply to house a lot of junk, no matter how desirable. After Noah's popularity is the result of a meeting of two canny business minds, both with strong artistic bent and very different talents. "When we opened After Noah we wanted to combine our talents," explains Matthew. "We both have a strong idea of our individual styles and managed to merge them well."

Matthew's background as a cabinet maker and furniture restorer ensures that whatever comes in for sale can be lovingly restored and beeswaxed back to health. His apprenticeship to his grandfather more than a decade ago means that he now boasts a workshop of 12 years' standing, trusted by the likes of English Heritage, Kew Gardens and even one or two embassies. Zoe is an artist and mosaicist with an unerring eye for consumer delights and a nice line in mosaic table-tops, which are now one of the shop's most popular lines.

The balance of old and new pieces is about 60-40, but you'd never know it. A handmade steel bed may resemble the one your granny owned, but it's available from the workshop, starting at £595. Conical chocolate cups at about £4 apiece look as if they are the last batch of a Thirties consignment. But don't worry – there will be a huge delivery of more next week.

If there is one thing After Noah has achieved it is this balance of old incidentals and the ultra-new, such as Tumbler cups – vessels with a rocking bottom – and the vinyl vase – a strip of plastic sleevelets which you fill with water for single stems and attach to your window.

A price range stretching from pocket money to Fort Knox ensures that After Noah is relied on heavily by gift hunters: bored with the mass of glossy shops all offering similar goods found in every city centre, they troop in here knowing that they are always likely to find something a little different.



The philosophy of After Noah is simple: keep it basic, keep it functional. There is almost a puritanical streak in the choice of merchandise in

the shop, contradicted only by the chaos: you may bang your knee on a stool and collide with a spray of dried flowers, both at the same moment.

After Noah is like an attic. It's your attic, my attic – different contents, but the same mania. So perhaps there is a little bit of all of us that responds to what one of Matthew's assistants calls "disorganised comfort".

"People don't live in museums," pronounces Matthew. "They acquire things over a period of time. Some are good quality, some are not, but overall there is a look, a cohesiveness."

Is it perhaps a look which is simply a home from home, or do they, Jekyll-and-Hyde-style, live in high Napoleonic splendour? "I think the shop is probably nicer to live in," Matthew confesses with a little laugh.

Now that the couple have opened their new shop in Chelsea, perhaps the King's Road could be seen as the Upper Street of south London...

After Noah, 121 Upper Street, N1 (tel: 0171-359 4281) and 261 King's Road, SW3 (tel: 0171-351 2610)



bazaar

Good thing

Georgina von Etzdorf Interiors Collection, from £85

If you are a fan of Georgina von Etzdorf's scarves you'll be pleased to know that she has launched a range of soft furnishings. Now you can fill your home with cushions, throws, bean-bags and bolsters in rich velvet, cashmere and tulle, all decorated with her distinctive designs. To complete the effect you should invest in a little something from her lounge-wear collection, which includes nightdresses, printed velvet and satin crêpe dressing gowns and velvet slippers.

For more information, call 0171-245 1066

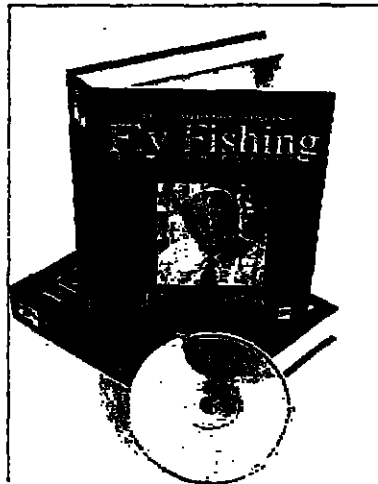


Mad thing

Limited Edition Fly Fishing CD-ROM Game, £34.99

You've guessed it – it's by JR Hartley, the fictitious, fragile fisherman who has gone from preposterous TV sentimentality to releasing state-of-the-art interactive software. The world of virtual fly-fishing is yours without the need for waders as this computer simulation gives you the sights and sounds of game-fishing rivers. A library of information also provides photographs and animations on the subject. The weather behaves realistically (it's bad), while the fish deploy their Fish Artificial Intelligence – "based on statistical analysis" – to avoid capture. Cooking them doesn't seem to be an option.

Available from major bookshops and retail software outlets



Checkout BS8, Park Street, Bristol, 0117-930 4836

Concept: It's as if London's Hyper Hyper, Camden Market and Neal Street had teamed up and relocated to Bristol. BS8 is a colourful – purple and orange – indoor market. This shopaholics' paradise offers everything you'd hope to experience in one day's shopping squeezed under one roof.

Image: Enter into the mellow yellows and happening reds which splash the walls, add thundering music, mixed live by local DJs, shake, stir. The result? An ambient, ever-changing, clubby place to shop.

Stock: The first floor and basement house a maze of clothes units which boast club-wear labels, including Paul Tunstall, Fille A Suivre, Diesel and Buffalo footwear. You can also buy glad rags designed by the shopkeepers themselves – rags being the operative word considering the price of some of these garments. Watch the DJs spin on the

decks whilst you decide between Madonna's "Material Girl" or the latest house mix in the music section. Had enough? Chill out upstairs and view local art work or refuel at the on-site café. If you feel in need of a complete image change, get a hair cut on the top floor.

Customers: Mostly trendy, 20-something west country clubbers ("that rave last night was serious, man"). There are occasional sightings of ageing ravers, and middle-aged parents hover by tills, credit cards in hand, while teenagers decide between the PVC or the Lycra.

Best buy: Second-hand shirts, around £7, and denim jackets, from £30, from Sobey's Vintage Clothing. If a haircut counts as a "buy", they're good at £10.

Worst buy: Badly made, luminous orange "jungle dress" by Freeway 101 (£52.99).

Six of the best



gardening

Rich pickings from careful plotting

A small plot can produce an ample fruit harvest. By Anna Pavord

Wonder if you have any advice on the question of fruit? We have a small patch about 6ft deep by 15ft long that used to be the children's rabbit run. Now the children have left home and the rabbits have gone to a higher place, and I would like to plant it with fruit trees. The basic objective would be to pack into it as much interest, variety and gastronomic pleasure as possible, so this presumably requires cordons. We were thinking of putting a fan-trained plum at the back. Do you have any advice as to a well-balanced mix to add to this?

The request came from George Halahan, who lives with his French wife, Elisabeth, in a handsome turn-of-the-century house in St Albans, Hertfordshire. The patch that he is hoping to turn into a fruit garden runs down by the boundary hedge on the left-hand side of the garden. It's a wedge-shaped piece of ground, only about 4ft wide at the top, where it butts on to an old shed, but nearly 10ft wide at the bottom, where it runs into the greenhouse. It faces south, and Mr Halahan says that the soil is reasonably good. He gardens on fairly stiff clay, larded through with flints. The clay would suit fruit trees. There are already two of them, set side by side at the bottom of the patch by the greenhouse, so in effect the planting space for new fruit is less than 15ft long. One of the trees is a red-flushed young perry pear, growing beautifully, but with branches rather low to the ground.

The other is what is often called a "family" tree: three sorts of apple grafted on to a single rootstock. As with most trees of this kind, Mr Halahan is finding it difficult to keep the balance between the varieties. "Greensleeves", with sharp, juicy, late-autumn fruit is more dominant than either of the other two, "George Cave" and "Egremont Russet". The russet, one of the best flavoured of all English apples, was doing the worst.

You could tell from the rest of the Halahans' garden (well laid out and planted) that they were people who would be prepared to take trouble to get things right. Mr Halahan didn't blench at the thought of the pruning and training that would be necessary if he wanted cordons and fans. "You are looking at a mathematician," said Mrs Halahan. Her husband, she assured me, is both methodical and patient. Lucky her! He specialises in computer software, writing programs for specific companies. She is a homemaker. They both work from home.

The only problem is the hedge – hawthorn, ivy, laurel, and all of it rather high. It would provide shelter from the north but would also suck the ground dry in summer, and gobble the food meant for the fruit. Big, half-standard fruit trees, on non-dwarfing rootstock, would cope with the competition. But here, the object was to cram as much as possible into a small space, and that couldn't be done without using trees grafted on to dwarfing rootstocks. These are very much fussier about the conditions they live in.

I suggested that Mr Halahan put up some supports strung with parallel wires along the back of the plot, leaving a narrow gap so that he could walk down behind the structure to hack at the hedge when necessary. He could grow cordon fruit trees, or a fan, tied in to the wires. Set out like this, a little way from the hedge, the competition for the roots would be kept as low as possible.

Then, along the front of the plot, he could put stepover apples. These are no more than 1ft high, single-arm espaliers which you can train to make



Photograph: Keith Dobney

a very low, productive hedge. At the top of the plot, the narrow end of the wedge, there would not be enough room between the stepovers and the fruit trees along the back to squeeze in anything else. But the plot widens on its way to the greenhouse. At the lower end, there might be room for a couple of standard gooseberries (dotty, but enchanting to have in a garden) or some compact bush blackcurrants such as the Scottish-bred "Ben Sarek". In front of the stepovers, a row of alpine strawberries could be planted. "Baron Solemacher" is the best, because it does not send out runners. But in the main, Mr Halahan is more interested in growing tree fruit than soft fruit.

Stepover apples should be planted 5ft apart, so Mr Halahan could fit in three different kinds along the front of his plot. To get the best set of fruit, he would have to choose varieties with the same (or overlapping) flowering times. I would avoid "Cox's Orange Pippin". It is a sickly, difficult fruit to grow without endless spraying. "Discovery", "Ellison's Orange", "Fiesta" or "James Grieve" would be more likely to succeed.

Stepovers are usually grafted on to M27 rootstock. This is the most dwarfing rootstock available and trees grafted on to it come into fruit when they are only two or three years old. This sounds like good news, but there is a downside. The root system is sparse and the trees succeed only in very fertile soil. It's also expensive.

When you choose fruit trees, you need to consider the style of the tree (cordon, fan, stepover etc.) hand-in-hand with the site, the cultivar and

the rootstock. Mr Halahan will probably succeed with the stepovers on M27 rootstock because his soil is fertile and he is interested enough in gardening to take special care of the trees he plants.

You cannot rely on pruning alone to contain the size of a tree. If an apple has been grafted on to M25 rootstock (M25 is used for big, orchard-sized trees) you can't blame it for trying to fulfil its destiny, which is to grow into a big, beautiful prizefighter of a tree. Heavy pruning will only make it renew its efforts to do what nature intended.

So if, like Mr Halahan, you don't have much space, you should choose cultivars that by nature are not too vigorous (and that means avoiding the cooker "Bramley's Seedling") and check that it has been put on to an appropriate rootstock. If you wanted to grow the apple "Discovery" as a cordon in a restricted situation on good soil, you might choose M9 as the rootstock. But if you had poor soil you would be better growing a cordon grafted on to MM106, which would give the tree a bit more "oomph".

Mr Halahan said he would like to put a fan-trained plum at the back of his plot. That is a possibility, as it could be played out against the supporting wires, with the main branches of the fan trained and tied on to supporting bamboo canes. This is the most dwarfing rootstock available for plums, but even that produces trees at least 10ft high and wide. So there would be room for only one plum, which might bring problems with regard to pollination. Plums set more fruit if they are cross-pollinated with another variety that flowers at the same time.

By planting cordons rather than a fan along the

back of the plot, Mr Halahan could introduce greater variety. But plums don't like growing as cordons. I suggested a selection of cordon pears instead. He already has the perry pear and a beautifully grown half-standard "Comice" pear, which he put in a few years ago on the other side of the greenhouse. They would both help with pollination.

Apple cordons can be grafted on to MM106 rootstock or the more dwarfing M9 or M27. The dwarfs can be planted 18in apart, with cordons on MM106 spaced more widely, at about 2ft 6in. Pears, though, are generally grafted on to quince stock, with Quince A being the usual choice for trained trees. There is a more dwarfing Quince C stock available, but if I were Mr Halahan I would go for cordons on the slightly more vigorous Quince A. The hedge is close, the situation not absolutely ideal – but even at a 3ft spacing, he could still fit in four cordons along the back, without tangling with the perry pear. "Beth", "Beurre Hardy", "Concorde" and "Merton Pride" would all be suitable, and should have overlapping flowering times.

And then there was the side of the shed. Perhaps a trident-shaped redcurrant, trained against the wooden boards, where the translucent fruit would hang like a display of outrageous earrings? Even in a patch only 6ft by 15ft, many things are possible.

Trained fruit trees are available from Scotts Nurseries, Merriott, Somerset TA16 5PL (tel: 01460 72306) or Highfield Nurseries, Whitminster, Gloucester GL2 7PL (tel: 01452 740266).



CUTTINGS

The Alpine Garden Society is holding an autumn show today (12pm-4.30pm) at the West Cheshire Arts Centre, Blacon Avenue, Blacon, Chester. Look out for cyclamen, gentian, ferns, sedums and sempervivums.

The late Frances Perry had a particular interest in water gardening and before her death had already started work on a new book on the subject. This has now been published, the work she started being completed by the English horticulturalist Peter Robinson, of Stapely Water Gardens, and the American specialist Perry Slocum. The book is in two parts: the first half is about water gardening in general (pools, bogs, waterfalls, streams) while the second half is about water lilies and lotuses in particular. Lotuses are too tender to grow outside in the UK but Perry Slocum's luscious pictures make them seem a very tempting prospect for a heated conservatory pool. *Water Gardening: Water Lilies and Lotuses* is published by The Timber Press.

WEEKEND WORK

Take cuttings from tender perennials such as fuchsia, geranium, helichrysum, osteospermum and fuchsia. Overwinter them in a greenhouse or a similar shelter.

Start planting daffodil bulbs. They always look better set in groups rather than dotted about singly. If you are planting in grass, choose a spot where the dying daffodil leaves and the ever-lengthening grass will not irritate you to the extent that you cut the grass too soon.

Cut off and dry seed heads from alliums, Chinese lantern, honesty and poppies and hang them upside-down to dry for winter decorations.

House plants need less food and water as growth slows down. Tuberous rooted begonias and gloxinias should be laid on their sides in a cool greenhouse.

The heavy dews and still air of early autumn may encourage attacks of mildew on Michaelmas daisies, new growth of rose bushes and young forget-me-not plants. Spray with fungicide to keep this unsightly disease under control. Some old varieties of Michaelmas daisy are more prone to mildew than types such as *Aster frikartii*. If you are tired of battling, dig up old clumps at the end of the flowering season, refresh the soil with compost and bonemeal and plant with mildew-resistant types in spring.

Tel: 0171 293 2222

gardening

Fax: 0171 293 2505

The UK PLASTIC SHEET CENTRE

Clear as
GLASS
PLASTIC
GLAZING

Multiwall
Conservatory
Roofing
and NEW!
SUN SHADE
VINYL

DIY PLASTIC
DIY PLASTICS (UK) LTD
(Head Office & Showroom)
Regal Way, Faringdon
Oxfordshire SN7 7XD
TEL: 01367 242515
(24 hours)
FAX: 01367 242200

Send now for our ALL NEW
32 page COLOUR CATALOGUE
covering all types of
PLASTIC SHEET for:
• REPAIR • PROTECTION
• REPLACEMENT
• SHADING & MORE!

Please enclose 2 x 1st class stamps

To: DIY Plastics (UK) Ltd.,
Dept IM83, Regal Way, Faringdon,
Oxfordshire SN7 7XD.

Name
Address

County

P/code

Rigid Panes –
for Security/Double Glazing –
simple DIY kits to beat the
burglar. Polystyrene, Poly-
carbonates – Plus replacement
Acrylics for Greenhouses, Sheds,
etc. AND WE CUT-TO-SIZE too!

High quality Twin
or Triple Wall
Polycarbonate
+ NEW
SUNSHADE
VINYL – Clings
without Glue lift &
re-apply as often as
you wish – Amazing!

SYNTHETIC
BRICK
DIY FLAT
ROOF
COVER
Made to
measure
Saves £££

Distinctive
Garden Buildings

HIGH QUALITY BUILDINGS IN A RANGE
OF DEAL AND CEDAR.
LARGE RANGE OF MODELS & SIZES.

- BUILDING MADE TO CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS
- GREENHOUSES
- SUMMERHOUSES
- GARDEN ROOMS
- WORKSHOPS
- CHALETs
- SHEDS
- PLAYDEN

CALL US NOW FOR A FREE
COLOUR BROCHURE
(24 HOURS)
Tel: 0181 303 4982

387 BLACKFEN ROAD
SIDCUP, KENT, DA15 9RU

Tel: 0181 303 4982
Fax: 0181 301 0426
WARRENS

15 POUNDS QUALITY
TIMBER BUILDINGS

SHEDS, WORKSHOPS, SUMMERHOUSES, GAZEBOS, GARAGES, PLAYHOUSES,
GREENHOUSES, ETC, ETC

- Buy direct from the factory
- No payment before delivery
- Quality built on 40 yrs experience
- First because they last

RING FOR FREE CATALOGUE
01299 266337 (24 hr)

POUNDS DISTINGUISHED BOWLEY WORK BY 12/20X

GARDENING: A USEFUL ALPHABET
Anna Pavord Only £9.95

Enjoy her wit and wisdom in this
stylish book with beautiful wood
engravings by Yvonne Skarson.

Published by Corgi Books Ltd of
9 Clarendon Rd, Cambridge CB2 2RH
Send cheque for £9.95 (inc. p&hp) or
fax credit card details to 01223 365866

FRUIT PRESSES
AND CRUSHERS
Turn surplus and windfall fruit
into juice, cider and
more.

A range of traditional
quality machines available
for juice, cider and
more.

Prices from £55
VIGOR, P.O. Box 7,
Hempstead, Essex
Tel: 01825 68844 (24hr)
Fax: 01825 68 95 97

The strongest • The lightest • The Best

Total gardening enjoyment comes free with these no-tools work horses,
back with uncompromising excellence in both design and materials:
• Indestructible, yet lightweight hopper – with never rust, buckle or break.
• Built-in galvanized, strong tubular steel chassis – robust and superbly
balanced.
• Large, heavy-duty tyres, complete with rubber bearings – smooth,
effortless rolling.
• All fittings in stainless steel –
resisting rust or deterioration
with time.

Range of five in three sizes. Request
literature from:

BOULDER BARROWS
PO Box 40, Woking, Surrey GU24 7YU
Tel: 01483 727 888

Rediscover the flavour of fresh
POTATOES
from your own garden

White skinned, white fleshed manxop
varieties. Reliable heavy croppers. Bakes
well and makes fantastic chips.

The new Marshall's catalogue features the tastiest, most
reliable soft fruits, vegetables and salad varieties. Seeds,
starter plants, onion sets and seed potatoes.
Dig-in and save the difference.

SEND FOR YOUR FREE 1997 CATALOGUE NOW!
A.E. Marshall & Co. Ltd., Ref 614 Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2DF
Please send my FREE copy of the new 1997 catalogue.

Name
Address
Postcode

01945 543467 (24 hrs) 01945 543467

To advertise in this section please call the
Gardening Team on 0171 293 2323/2344

travel skiing

BEGINNERS:
START HERE

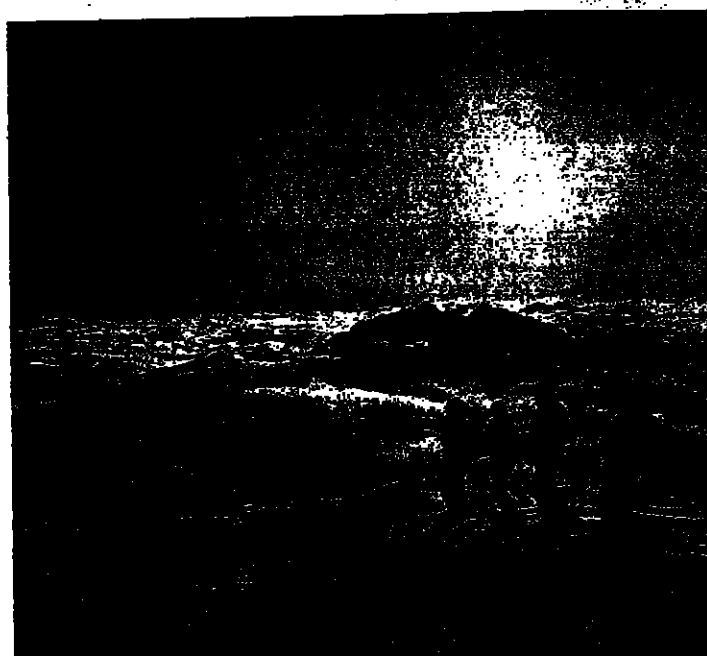
Toying yet again with the idea of that first skiing (or snowboarding) holiday? Here are ten rules to simplify the decision-making.

1. Do it now, the later you start skiing, the harder it will be to learn and the more you'll regret the delay.
2. Don't go at Christmas/New Year, when prices are high, snow is unreliable and crowds are at their worst. Avoid February high season weeks, too, if you can – especially in France.
3. Have your first lessons at home, on a dry slope – a hillside carpeted with plastic bristle – or at the Tamworth SnowDome (see opposite). It will give you a head start when you come to tackle the real thing.
4. Go to a small, friendly resort where you'll quickly feel at home. Look for nursery slopes at village level, and beginner lifts that are cheap or even free.
5. If possible, go somewhere that offers alternatives to skiing for those afternoons when you feel like a change – or for the rest of the week if you don't take to skiing after all.
6. Go for the right part of the market. Major Alpine resorts are great places in which to flex your flexible friend, but miserable places in which to economise. At the other extreme, eastern Europe is very cheap, but primitive.
7. Don't fall for self-catering, unless you are a dedicated cook – you'll spend a fortune eating out.
8. Rent equipment. The skis and boots that are suitable when you start skiing will not remain suitable for long; buying them is throwing money away.
9. Rent it there, not here, so that you can chop and change as you wish – until your boots are comfortable.
10. If you must buy clothes at least have the sense to buy stuff that's generally useful outdoors, in case you never ski again – ie, no one-piece suits.

CG

Summer's over:
long live winter

The bad news is that summer officially ends today. The simple phrase 'autumnal equinox' evokes a chill, heralding darkening evenings, forlorn trees and the thermometer's long downhill run. The good news is that our winter sports coverage begins today. Our parallel turns for this season are Chris Gill, our longtime skiing correspondent and editor of 'Where to Ski', and our new ski columnist Stephen Wood. More people than ever are taking advantage of cheap long-



haul travel to extend the definition of winter sports. Accordingly, we have expanded our coverage to include activities where summer is just beginning – or where it never ends.

What's new? So how do you fancy starting your skiing day? Will it be blueberry muffins and maple syrup, lubricated by a pale imitation of coffee supplied in limitless quantities? Or a contrastingly intense double espresso accompanied by a dry bread roll or two? *Birchermuesli*, I'm afraid, is off the menu, as is *pain au chocolat*.

I exaggerate. But there is no doubt that this season, as last, international exchange rates have focused the expectations of the British skiing business on Canada (and to a lesser extent the US) and Italy, at the expense of the established Alpine favourites of Austria, France and Switzerland.

Crossing the Atlantic will never be the way to cut skiing costs to the bone, but it is no longer a particularly extravagant way to holiday, thanks to extremely competitive air

fares as well as Canada's weak currency. Last season, for the first time, the number of British skiers flying west (something like 35,000) exceeded the number going to Switzerland.

This season, the competitive pressures are increased by the return of transatlantic charter flights to ski areas, absent from the scene for several years. At the last count there were four charters a week planned by the big operators such as Inghams and First Choice, all of them heading for Calgary and giving access to the resorts around Banff, in one of the most spectacular parts of the Rockies.

British Columbia, further west, is still dominated by the resort that put Canada on the UK

skiing map, Whistler – one of the few impressively large ski areas in north America. But UK tour operators are now spreading their wings and tempting skiers to explore "unknown" ski areas such as Big White, Silver Star and Sun Peaks, by offering safari-style holidays giving three or four days in three or four places. And the resorts of eastern Canada – notably Mont Tremblant – are no longer ignored.

Despite a stronger currency, the US also offers good-value holidays, particularly in the areas where the resorts and airlines are hungriest for business – California and New England, where the number of visitors from Britain has shot up.

Both areas are well worth considering: California has the bigger ski areas (Mammoth, Heavenly, Squaw Valley), but New England

has attractions for families (in resorts such as Smugglers' Notch), and for those who may like to tour several resorts by car.

The cream of American resorts, of course, are still those of Colorado. Vail, Aspen's rival for the absolute top slot, seized the initiative this winter with the linking of Beaver Creek (already an underrated ski area) to Arrowhead, adding an extra 300 acres of skiing. Skiers who want to be at the frontier should consider Big Sky, up in Montana, which now claims the greatest vertical drop in the States (1,275m). Or perhaps Crystal Holidays' latest PR wheeze: Alyeska, in Alaska – at 75m, the second-lowest ski resort in the world (after Voss in Norway) but, with an annual 14m of snow, one of the snowiest.

Unless the Padanian lira turns out to be stronger than the Italian one, the British skiers who forsake Söll and La Plagne to flock to Livigno and Sanze d'Oux in northern Italy this winter will find prices refreshingly modest. (I can still remember my shock, last December, when I realised that I had bought two coffees in an Italian mountain restaurant for £1.25.) They won't find such extensive skiing – though if they were to head for the magnificent but less popular Dolomites they would – but they will find welcoming people and modern lifts.

Of course, most of us will not be deflected from our Alpine favourites. The skiing in France, in particular, is simply the best there is, whether you favour the boulevards of the Trois Vallées or the steep slopes above Chamonix. The latter takes a momentous step this season by linking (by lift, though not by piste) the two main areas above the town, Brevent and Flégère – so you'll no longer need to pick one area or the other at the start of the day. There are improvements up the valley at Argentière, too, with a new mid-mountain complex and a powerful new gondola above it. Austria, once the most popular destination with Brits, now plays second fiddle to France, and this year may even be pushed into third place by Italy. But for one Austrian resort, at least, this will be a season to remember: Kitzbühel has finally consigned its Hahnenkamm cable-car to the museum, where it should have gone a decade ago. It has been replaced by an efficient gondola, thus bringing to an end one of the last great lift queues of the Alps.

Switzerland suffered a disproportionate drop in business last season. It is widely perceived as the most expensive destination of all, but in practice is no more expensive than France, and in some respects (eg upmarket hotel prices) appreciably cheaper. And it is blessed with some of the most distinctive resorts and glorious scenery. Zermatt offers both, and its fans will understandably not go elsewhere; this season, access to some of the best skiing, on the 3100m Unterrothorn, will be transformed by the opening of a jumbo 150-person cable-car.

Chris Gill

Tel: 0171 293 2222

travel • overseas, skiing

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Special Interest Holidays

An adventure of a lifetime
...and it's FREE (almost!)

Dare you take up the challenge of the Sinai Hike Away? Experience breathtaking scenery, trekking from the Red Sea to Mount Sinai.

This amazing 5 day hiking event takes place in April 1997 and is organised to raise funds for Scope. Flights, guides, food and accommodation are provided. All we ask is that you pay the registration fee of £195 and raise the minimum sponsorship.

Sinai
100km
Hike
Away

SCOPE
Formerly The Spastics Society

FOR DETAILS CALL
0345 69 79 69

THE VERY BEST OF UNCOMMERCIAL

Turkey & northern Cyprus

KALKAN, PATARA, DALYAN, AKYAKA, TURUNC, GUNDOGAN, GUMUSLUK, GULET & MINI-CRUISES.

For a brochure or a chat with our friendly & knowledgeable team please call

TAPESTRY
HOLIDAYS
0181 742 0055

WEEKEND DAYTIME FLIGHTS FROM GATWICK, STANSTED & MANCHESTER.

ACTIVE & ADVENTUROUS JOURNEYS

Europe	Africa
Egypt & Middle East	USA & Canada
South East Asia	Australia / NZ
India, Nepal & China	Trans Siberian

Brochure Line: 0181 742 3049

EXODUS
The Independent Holiday

UK leaders in small group adventure holidays worldwide with over 20 years experience choose from 4 different brochures.

Discovery, Overland, Walking, Biking

Original adventures! Cultural journeys, rambles, hikes, cycling, treks and river journeys. PLUS 170 tours, treks and safaris in Africa, Middle East, Asia, Australasia and the Americas. Free colour brochure.

Explore Worldwide (IN).
Aldershot GU11 1LQ
Tel: 01252 344161 (over)
Boreham Road, No. 2955 410

Special Interest Holidays

ADVENTURES

SOUTH EAST ASIA HIMALAYA

5 different dedicated colour brochures featuring the best adventure holidays available from specialist tour operators

For brochures call: 01373 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

Worthing, Sussex, Tel: 01323 8589 56 (over)

JOURNALS

The specialists in travel to

BRAZIL

Handbook office

0161 852 1441

Low cost flights

0181 747 3108

Excited Groups and Cheap Seats

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

0181 747 8315

BIGFOOT TRAVEL

CHAMONIX/ARGENTIERE

QUALITY ACCOM &

CHALET • CHALET

APARTS

SKIING

GROUPS

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

0171 792 1188

all in ski holidays

one price covers the lot!

Italy specialists, also

Austria, France & USA

Gatwick, Stansted &

Manchester flights

Family Concessions

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

01273

299 299

SKIWORLD

CATERED CHALET, HOTELS & APARTMENTS

CANADA, USA, FRANCE, ITALY, SWITZERLAND

FLIGHTS FROM 7 UK AIRPORTS

SNOWTRAIN FROM WATERLOO & DOVER

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

0171 602 4826

Le Ski

VAL D'ISERE COURCHEVEL

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

01484 548996

0148

It looks like snow, it feels like snow, it probably even tastes like snow — it's virtually good enough for skiing

So how's the skiing season been for you so far? If you've followed a traditional September routine — a lot of brochures, a few exercises — I'm way ahead of you. I've already done the downhill in Hamley's toy shop in London, worked on my parallel turns in the sitting room, and travelled to the snowy piste of Tamworth, in Staffordshire. Maybe I've peaked too soon.

STEPHEN WOOD



The snows of Tamworth lie, all the year round, underneath the roof of the SnowDome, one of only four such centres in the world. It's a bizarre place: imagine a shopping centre in the second ice age — familiarity with J.G. Ballard's early post-apocalypse science fictions such as *The Drought* and *The Drowned World* helps here — and you'll get the idea. Inside the huge, windowless shed an L-shaped slope, covered in snow, runs down from the first floor to the basement; alongside it, moving walkways carry skiers back up. Powerful arc lights (as used in car parks with security problems) maintain a permanent, blinking brightness, night and day; the temperature is kept at a constant four degrees. There is even the murmur of shopping-centre muzak in the background.

Remarkable though all this artifice is, what draws skiers to Tamworth and prides a minimum of £12.50 per hour out of their pockets is the promise of "REAL SNOW" (SnowDome's promotional material uses big letters for the big attraction). And who can blame them? It's fantastic.

True, the slope is a little mean: only 150 metres long and 30 metres wide, so even skiing down sedately took a maximum of 44 seconds. (The journey back up takes two-and-a-half minutes.) But the surface, 16 centimetres deep, is delightfully authentic. It looks like it, it feels like it, it skis like it, it probably even tastes like it — it's REAL SNOW. Ski resort conditions are faithfully recreated: it's powdery at the top, but hard, rutted and full of beginners at the bottom, down by the timber-clad wall of the Tirol Suite, Tamworth's après-ski scene.

Commercial security demands that "as with Coca Cola, the REAL SNOW formula is a total secret", according to the promotional material. (I should have tasted it.) First Leisure, SnowDome's owner, has the UK rights to a snow-mak-



Stephen Wood (left) samples what could be the most expensive ski slope on Earth

ing process developed for one of the other indoor snow slopes, in Adelaide — and jealously protects them. Apparently the SnowDome has many potential rivals. Its general manager, Gordon Greig, who boldly predicts that "indoor ski slopes will be the biggest thing in leisure this decade", believes that more than 40 planning applications have been made for them in the UK.

I could only scratch the surface of the mystery, and discovered that there is a man-made glacier beneath the snow. Which may be important: John Llewellyn of Leamore Developments, which opened the SnowDome in 1994, admitted that the snow's secret "is not just how you make it, but how you maintain it". In Japan, where the indoor slopes are bigger (500 metres

long), better (two pistes) and much more expensive (£190 million to build, £70 per hour to use), their snow-making process demands authentic mountain-top temperatures of minus eight degrees — which "wouldn't have been acceptable in Britain", according to Mr Llewellyn.

Tamworth's Snowdome has proved more than acceptable. In the high season, between Decem-

ber and February, it is not uncommon for visitors to have to wait an hour to get on to the slope, whose capacity is limited to 180.

If you still think you can resist, consider the following. If you are a beginner, you can learn to ski or snowboard there behind closed doors, without an audience of Continentals who got on to the ski slopes as soon as they'd got off the breast. If you've ever been on a dry ski slope — well, you don't have to go through that nightmare again. If you always ride your first ski lift of the season worrying whether you can still ski (don't we all?), forget it. And if you're Japanese, it's amazingly cheap.

Compared with the REAL SNOW experience, the rest of the build-up to the season has been rather abstract. Down in the bowels of Hamley's store I found the "Alpine Racer" arcade game, and skied the pistes at its electronic resort. You can do downhill or slalom, with your feet on platforms which not only steer but also "edge". Its big video screen offers a stirring simulation, plus hints on technique: "Avoid unnecessary turns", "Use the ski edges to turn sharper". The sound effects are excellent; but the authenticity is somewhat diminished by the fact that you can still steer while flying through the air. And be warned: at about £1 a minute, a day on the Alpine Racer would be only marginally cheaper than a week in the Alps.

But you probably know about Alpine Racers. They're like buses: one comes along, and then suddenly there are lots of them. I heard a familiar electronic tune in a service station on the motorway up to Tamworth: it was coming from the Alpine Racer machine. There was another in the lobby of the SnowDome.

And if you are a reader of the Innovations catalogue, you may also be familiar with the Ski-netic Trainer, priced at £79.95. The copy suggests: "Before that precious holiday on the slopes, develop and refine your skiing abilities". I had a Ski-netic in the living room for a couple of days and — with the curtains drawn — practised parallels on the spot. It's a cunningly simple device, designed by an architect to encourage his wife to keep up with him. Is it doing me any good? I don't know — and I won't until somebody compliments me on my refined skiing abilities. It's never happened before.

The SnowDome is at Leisure Island, River Drive, Tamworth, Staffs B79 7ND (tel: 0990 000011). It is open 9am-1pm every day.

My only sunshine — going south by degrees for a winter warmer

By Simon Calder

Southbound seats are being sold off cheap this winter, with more competition and lower fares than ever. If your winter thermostat is set to a higher degree than the average skier, then migrate south by degrees.

20 north: Cuba
The last bastion of communism moves a little closer to Crawley on Hallowe'en, when Cubana starts flying from Gatwick to Havana. These flights are already heavily booked, but Kuoni (01306 742222) has an allocation and is selling six-night holidays for £479 in November. The island's beaches are rightly renowned, but the opportunities for hiking and biking are only slowly being recognised.

10 north: Philippines
The great thing about the winter's fares war to Australasia is that you can stop almost anywhere you care to mention en route to Australia or New Zealand. Philippines Airlines, for example, is selling through discount agents for about £645 (including tax) for any time in winter apart from the month around Christmas. Manila, where you are allowed to stop over, vies with Bangkok and Taipei as the foulest of the Asian capitals. But much of the rest of the archipelago is blissful in absolute, as well as relative, terms. There are many worse places to learn to scuba dive.

The Equator
One of the strangest phenomena in travel is that it has taken so long for the joys of reconstructed Uganda to be explored by the British. None of the crowds and few of the problems have strayed across the border from Kenya. One fine sport is seeing how often you can cross the Equator — it is marked on highways through the country by big concrete Os. But an adventure that, since the fighting in neighbouring Rwanda, is now exclusive to Uganda is gorilla tracking. The downside is that fares to Entebbe are around the £550 mark, compared with as little as £400 for discount tickets to Nairobi.

10 south: Macao
Conventional wisdom suggests that the best beaches in Brazil, and possibly South America, are the twin pearls of Ipanema and Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro. For the seasoned traveller, they are indeed places of excitement and fascination, but for anyone who sees the search for the perfect



The Philippines (top) and Cuba

beach as a quest for relaxation these urban strands are no good at all. Instead, sidle up the coast to Macao, almost straddling the 10 degree line. Hereabouts the beaches look as though they go on forever, and the further you look the fewer people you see. At present Macao is hard to reach, but watch these pages for details of direct flights from London to the nearby gateways of Fortaleza or Recife.

20 south: Queensland
Using one of those bargain flights to Australia, hop off at Cairns or Brisbane and make for Townsville. Ten minutes should do nicely in this town of modest charms, before you move on to Proserpine — jumping-off point for the Whitsundays. Follow in the wake of Captain Cook's Endeavour by chartering a yacht to swish around this most

benign of seas, softened by the Great Barrier Reef. If that sounds too serious, then take a day-trip with an experienced skipper who will steer while you sip the unlimited chilled beer.

30 south: the Andes
Take advantage of keen fares to Santiago de Chile (£500 or less through discount agents) and tackle the summer slopes on foot or horseback.

40 south: New Zealand
The usual way to compute fares to NZ used to be to take the price to Australia and add a hundred or two. This winter, though, quality airlines are selling furiously to both Auckland and Christchurch for less than £750 return — the same as for Sydney or Melbourne. And in the country that popularised bungee-jumping, there is never any shortage or exhilaration.

Traditions of Arabia



HENNA

A reddish dye obtained from powdered leaves, henna has traditionally been used by the women of Arabia to stain the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet for weddings and other festivals. The simple geometric patterns of the past have given way over the years to more flowery designs.

Luxury and Adventure

Arabia, a land of mystery

travellers for centuries.

cover why. Tradition and

desert safari. The excitement of sand skiing, dune driving and camel racing. Sunny blue skies and

clean uncrowded beaches. Three fine golf courses. Superb watersports. Luxury hotels and fine

dining. Fabulous shopping and lively

all this and more in Dubai, with a choice

to an unforgettable holiday experience.

and legend, has captivated

Today, Dubai invites you to dis-

hospitality. The adventure of a

nightlife. Discover

of 65 airlines to fly you

Decide on Dubai.

The Dubai Experience



DUBAI COMMERCE AND TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD
125 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EA, U.K. Brochure line (24 hours) Tel: (0171) 839 0581

travel

Someone to watch over you

Is official advice to travellers worth taking seriously? By Simon Calder

Road 13 is lucky for some British travellers. This battered old excuse for a highway, which winds north through Laos from Vientiane to Yang Vieng, is singled out as being relatively safe – at least compared with the onward journey to Luang Prabang, where the visitor risks attack by bandits. On balance, journeys should be made by air wherever possible.

This information arrived on my desk on Monday. Not a dispatch from some battle-hardened correspondent tottering through Indo-China in search of a story, but from a nicely refurbished office in Palace Street, SW1 – just across the fence from the Queen's London residence.

As your passport will testify, the Foreign Secretary requests and requires in the name of Her Majesty, all those whom it may concern "to allow British citizens to travel freely and safely. But on the basis that this invocation carries less immediate weight than a loaded Kalashnikov, the Government also employs people to try to protect us. If the world cannot immediately be made a safer place, the theory goes, then at least we should be told which parts to avoid. Yet are we being told the whole truth, and nothing but?

"Selective, patchy, sloppily compiled, often out-of-date and slow to catch up, far too brief," Richard Trillo, who writes for the *Rough Guides*, pronounced himself unimpressed with the advice that the Foreign Office provides to the traveller. One reason for these perceived shortcomings, he suggests, is political manoeuvring carried out "in the furtherance of commercial and diplomatic ends".

"Complete rubbish," retorted a Foreign Office spokesman.

It seemed diplomatic to get the two parties together, and to eavesdrop on the subsequent conversation. So when Mr Trillo called in on the

Travel Advice Unit to see how the system works, and to argue about its effectiveness, I tagged along.

The system has a lean simplicity: British missions abroad report about the risks on their patch. Sometimes these warnings come in response to specific events, such as kidnappings or killings of British subjects abroad. More usually, they are routine reports, such as the one which arrived on Monday warning of the "high level of violent street crime" in the West African state of Guinea.

A small staff compiles the information and distributes it; faxes are dispatched to the travel trade and newspapers; details are processed for the screen, both BBC2 Ceefax and the Internet; and files are updated to respond to calls from individual tourists, 79,000 of whom phoned the advice unit last year. Details of how you can keep yourself informed are given below. But what most concerns Mr Trillo is the quality of the information.

Selective and patchy: advice issued by the Foreign Office does not cover the globe. Why should places such as Korea and Cyprus be overlooked, even though each is a divided nation with a tense front line? Some years ago the FO produced notes on every country in the world, but stopped because the results were little used. Jeremy Hanley, the minister responsible for consular services, says that he sees little value in consistency for its own sake and that there is "no need and no demand for FO advice on every country". In the case of Cyprus, advice was issued following violence on the Green Line and an outbreak of meningitis last month. It has now been withdrawn. But British visitors to the island (almost 1 million of them last year) can still obtain a Dos and Don'ts leaflet from the FO.

Far too brief: Mr Trillo cites the advice for the Czech Republic as being "particularly worth-

less". On Ceefax recently, the would-be visitor to Prague was advised that he or she "should carry identification at all times, preferably a photocopy of their passport, with the passport being securely stored i.e. [sic] in a hotel safe etc." The FO says the poor English was a result of editing errors by Ceefax, and stands by its policy of brevity. "Our experience shows that we can best get our message across by keeping it short and clear, rather like news headlines which flag up the key points," a spokesman explains. The service aims to point up potential problems rather than give chapter and verse.

Sloppily compiled, often out-of-date and slow to respond: A prime piece of evidence for this, says Mr Trillo, is the advice on Western Sahara. This disputed slice of Africa, pinched between Morocco and Mauritania, is one of the 10 countries that the Government says is too dangerous to visit. Yet at least nine British overland companies traverse Western Sahara, carrying hundreds of travellers en route for southern Africa. Mr Trillo points out that they do this on the basis of years of experience, and would not jeopardise clients' safety. The British Embassy in Morocco has subsequently tweaked its advice, but the FO says "our assessment is that the area is best avoided. The fact that some overland travellers choose to ignore our advice does not in itself make the place safe."

Which brings us to the crucial question of political pressure. The word of the Foreign Office is law as far as most tour operators are concerned. Once the FO says "don't go", Thomson and the other holiday companies organise airlifts to bring home clients already at the destination and cancel subsequent flights. The most notable recent "victim" of this policy was the Gambia, whose visitor numbers from Britain were greatly reduced after a little local difficulty in winter 1994/95. The Foreign Office maintains

that its advice against travel there was justified because of the potential risks to British holiday-makers; the Gambian tourist industry, and numerous correspondents to *The Independent*, contend that the decision was a politically motivated reprisal against a regime that the British Government didn't like.

The FO "rejects completely the suggestion that our advice is subordinated to commercial and diplomatic ends, and are concerned that such a perception still exists. Our paramount concern is the safety of British nationals overseas. We have had protests from foreign governments about our advice, which should in itself testify to its integrity and independence." Jeremy Hanley firmly refutes the suggestion that the Government would actually prefer us all to stay at home – indeed, his daughter is currently travelling through Asia.

Richard Trillo and the Foreign Office have agreed to differ on the travel advice policy. He wants much more comprehensive information, along the lines of the detailed briefings issued by the US State Department. The FO wants to preserve the status quo. But since the visit, there have been some changes. Contact details for all UK missions now appear on the Internet.

I get the distinct impression that the travel advice: bulletins that arrive on my desk are becoming increasingly precise, and therefore more valuable. When I finally make it to Laos, I shall beware of "unexploded ordnance", particularly in Xiang Khouang Province and areas of the Laos-Vietnam border that were formerly traversed by the Ho Chi Minh trail. Be careful out there.

Find Foreign Office travel advice on tel: 0171-238 4503, fax: 0171-238 4545, on BBC2 Ceefax from page 564 onwards, or at <http://www.fco.gov.uk/> on the Internet.



A soldier at the North/South Korea border

LAST RESORT Eilat, Egypt

As the driver of the coach taking us from the airport to our hotel switched on his stereo, I appreciated that this holiday was going to be a little different. The fluttering strains of a very bad disco version of "Scotland the Brave" began to wail from tiny speakers, as we sped through the dark moonlight. Egypt was just a hundred yards away over a fence running all the way alongside the road, as we descended from a biblical desert plateau down to the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba, and the hot winter package destination of Eilat.

When you land at Ovda airport, the sight of F-14s poking out of underground bunkers, and anti-aircraft missile batteries beside the runway, alerts you to the fact that Israel is not going to be quite like Marbella or Corfu. As you descend to the coast the landscape does become familiar and Mediterranean-looking. Eilat is much like Benidorm used to be about 25 years ago. That is, before Benidorm spent billions (of pesetas) on a big image improvement. But with one subtle difference: Eilat has a runway running right through the middle of it. Yes, you could find yourself being gently rocked from your slumbers at 6am by a Boeing 737 hurtling past your hotel window less than a thousand yards away. One small comfort is that this is the town's original airport and so is too small for larger jets (which is why most Brits arrive at the military airport of Ovda, back up in the hinterland).

Once settled in, let the usual British urge to paddle take over, and head for what passes as a beach. It is remarkable to stand on the narrow strip of gravel that is the beach, looking out over the turquoise waters of Aqaba, and to be able to see four different countries at once. To your right, about seven miles away, is the border with Egypt. Immediately to your left, only two or three miles away, the streets and houses of the Jordanian town of Aqaba. King Hussein's seaside palace stands out quite clearly on the waterfront. And following the coastline south some ten miles you see the distant hills of Saudi Arabia, shrouded by the mists of Arabian fable and legend, and also the discharge of a huge (presumably oil-burning) power station.

What brought me to Eilat was not geographical novelty but the simple fact that it is one of the best winter destinations around at the moment, in terms of both cost and sun. It is about as far south as the Canaries, comes at about the same price, but is sunnier and has almost clear, blue water just warm enough to put more than a toe into.

The truly Unique Selling Proposition is the Bible. As you wander about this completely modern and rapidly developing holiday resort, you pass little bureaux organising car hire, cultural evenings and excursions. The list of those excursions, though written on a poster in felt-tip and stuck in the window with masking tape, is still a wonder to behold: day trips to Mount Sinai, where Moses saw the burning bush and received the word of God in the form of the Ten Commandments, and to Jerusalem, the Dead Sea or Masada. And overnight trips to Cairo, Petra or Bethlehem. But to bring you back to the late 20th century, try just the newly opened crossing from Eilat to Aqaba – a consciousness-raising experience in itself. The hundred yards of no-man's-land between the Israeli and Jordanian border posts reminded me of those Checkpoint Charlie movies, exchanging spies and just waiting, on your interminably long walk, for the crack of an East German border guard's rifle. Travel and politics are uneasy companions.

Jonathan Glancey

Peter Martin

Death in Venice? Tourists would be wise to read the local papers

It was a strangely beautiful sight: between two and three hundred Italian riot police in immaculate blue uniforms, formed into a classic (and classical) Roman phalanx, and occupying every last square millimetre of the Accademia bridge in Venice. The sky was blue, the water of the Grand Canal was blue, the boys with the plastic shields, tear gas guns and three-foot truncheons were blue.

It was clearly a beautiful sight, for mildly bewildered tourists trying to cross the timber bridge last Sunday saw this immaculate formation of urban commandos as a great photo-opportunity. Was it some sort of fancy-dress parade, part of a new September carnival? As modern cameras wheezed and flashed, the rioters in blue stood impassively behind an upright young officer talking purposefully into a radio-mike.

The unusual scene was animated by the basso-profundo flapping of helicopters hovering over St Mark's Square and the stroboscopic flash of blue lights as energetic police boats raced along streets full of water.

"This is just great," said an American student from under a vast baseball cap. "Sure," said his buddy in Day-Glo leisurewear, perched on high-rise trainers.

"but I kinda wonder what's going on?"

As they spoke, the police phalanx appeared twitchy, as if it might move very fast in our direction at any moment. At which point, a Japanese tour guide – one of those imperious ladies with a piercing voice and an umbrella brandished high like some medieval banner – led a troop of Japanese tourists from out of the Accademia gallery and marched them up to the bridge. Clearly her platoon was working to a very hurried schedule: Accademia (Bellini, Carpaccio, that sort of thing) dispatched in 20 minutes; next stop St Mark's famous square with 10 minutes for videoing the pigeons, before a forced march through the Doge's Palace and a photo-opportunity at the Bridge of Sighs.

Onwards they marched, these imperious Japanese, eyes glued unwaveringly to the latest generation of video-cameras. Theirs not to reason why, theirs but to make photography, into the Accademia phalanx they strode.

Forced to a halt by the police troop, the gallant tour guide tried to force her way through. She did not address the officer in charge, nor did she seem to see the armed rioters: she had a timetable to stick to and Italian people, police included, must not get in the way. This unseemly blockade, she feared, might delay the

embarkation of the post-pasta gondola flotilla.

As for her charges, they videoed to the left of them, they videoed to the right of them, refusing point-blank to look ahead into that solid wall of military blue. It was as if the riot police did not exist. Unable to breach this ineffable wall of muscle and shields, the tour guide finally marched her band to the boat stop: now those statutory 10 minutes in St Mark's would have to be cut in two.

The Japanese seemed unable to acknowledge the presence of riot police in Venice last Sunday, whilst other tourists I spoke to were mystified by this unlikely phenomenon. Yet, at the bottom of the steps at the Accademia bridge is a news-stand, and pasted to the front and sides of that news-stand, in full view of tourists from all points occidental and oriental, were posters calling attention to the invasion of Venice by the green-shirted brigades of the appropriately named Signor Bossi. Bossi is the right-wing separatist whose aim is to create a breakaway northern Italian state, which he calls Padania.

A fight did break out in the port of Chioggia, at the far end of the Venetian lagoon, between riot police and a 40,000-strong band of flag-waving padanians; in Venice the threat

was effectively contained by the riot police.

The truly disturbing thing was this: very few of the day trippers and holiday-makers and none of the video-crazy Japanese tourists appeared to have any idea that at any moment they might be caught up in a riot, in a fog of CS gas or even a hail of rubber bullets. Venice to them is a kind of crumbling and slightly smelly Disneyland, very historic, very amusing. But not a real place where political feelings can, and do, run as high as the campanile of St Mark's. Holidays are a time for escape, yet it seems a wise idea for tourists to read the local newspapers, or at least to talk to local people and to ask for the latest state of play. Last Sunday, it was all too easy to imagine a group of tourists on a trip to the Bay of Naples on that fateful day in AD79 when Vesuvius chose to erupt, videoing whilst Pompeii burned. And if tourists are unable to read newspapers, perhaps tour companies should encourage their guides to do so. Riot police seen through the lens of the latest satellite-linked/digital/web-site/CD-ROM video camera may look strangely beautiful, especially when occupying Accademia bridge, but violence is only ever ugly.

Jonathan Glancey

Peter Martin

AUTUMN IN FRANCE

SO MANY WAYS TO ENJOY A BREAK AND GREAT 'VALUE PLUS' FARES



HOTEL VALUE VOUCHERS

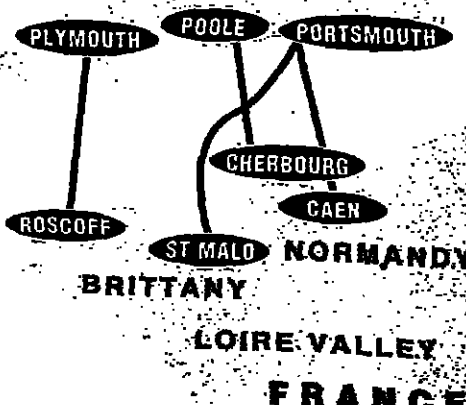
THE GREAT VALUE WAY FOR SHORT BREAKS OR TOURING HOLIDAYS from £14* per person, per night, including breakfast.

With any return ticket, you can choose from a great range of hotels throughout France.

'VALUE PLUS' FARES

REAL SAVINGS ON FERRY TRAVEL PERFECT FOR SHORT BREAKS OR LONGER STAYS IN FRANCE

3-Day Returns from £45* for a car, driver and up to 4 passengers. Stay up to 3 days abroad. Just one of a great range of 'Value Plus' fares.



Brittany Ferries
The Brittany Fleet

CALL NOW FOR DETAILS ON 0990 360 360 OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

PLUS GOLF BREAKS, CHAMBRES D'HOTES B&B, GITES, COTTAGES, HOLIDAY HOMES & MUCH MORE

* Cost per voucher £14. Vouchers are exchanged for a double room with shower or bath & w/c in 1-2 or 3-star hotels & breakfast for 2 people. For example, a 1 star hotel requires 3 vouchers per night.

* Special conditions apply to these fares. Details available on request from Brittany Ferries.

أنا من ألام

Tel: 0171 293 2222

Fax: 0171 293 2505

travel • overseas

Take Off

Because we think the world of you ...

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

(incl. taxes)	one way	return	one way	return	one way	return		
SYDNEY	£247	£485	NEW YORK	£115	£175	JOHANNESBURG	£246	£399
PERTH	£214	£428	BOSTON	£129	£189	CAPE TOWN	£238	£349
AUCKLAND	£254	£508	FLORIDA	£169	£269	HARARE	£319	£511
BANGKOK	£198	£396	LOS ANGELES	£217	£289	NAIROBI	£215	£329
HONG KONG	£276	£552	SAN FRANCISCO	£158	£255	DURAI	£197	£274
SINGAPORE	£228	£456	TORONTO	£199	£299	RIO	£296	£484
BAJI	£327	£654	VANCOUVER	£139	£249	PARIS	£45	£55
SAIGON	£327	£654	CARIBBEAN	£175	£239	AMSTERDAM	£55	£59
TOKYO	£276	£552	MEXICO CITY	£252	£329	NICE	£99	£99
DELHI	£215	£429	MANILA	£253	£439	AROUND THE WORLD	£652	

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £36 • USA £31 • AFRICA £37 • PACIFIC £42 • ASIA £30

USA CAR HIRE FROM £13 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR WORLD OR NORTH AMERICA DIRECTORY ON 0171-938 3939

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

London to Australia, including 2 internal flights. £649 return.
Non-stop to Peking £329 return (1 Nov - 24 Mar).

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171-938 3939 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 65701

worldwide attention to detail

194 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 7RG
Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3939
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

215 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 6BD
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400

42-50 Earls Court Road • LONDON W8 6ET
Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3366

22-24 The Priory Queensway • BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS
Worldwide Flights: 0121-236 1234

48 Corn Street • BRISTOL BS1 1HQ
Worldwide Flights: 0117-929 9000

254-284 Southwell Street • GLASGOW G2 3EH
Worldwide Flights: 0141-353 2224

58 Deansgate • MANCHESTER M3 2FF
Worldwide Flights: 0161-839 6969

First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

... people think the world of us!

★ STA TRAVEL ★
WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Paris	Amsterdam	Frankfurt	Athens	Prague
£48	£57	£96	£119	£129

Conditions vary on these routes and non-stop, quality airlines, scheduled flights. The rest is for you to decide.

ROUND THE WORLD: FROM £682

VIRGIN ATLANTIC SPECIALS
Europe: 0171 361 6161, WORLDWIDE: 0171 361 6262, 0161 894 0668 (Manchester)
ACCOMMODATION • CAR HIRE • INSURANCE AND OVERLAND TOURS: 0171 361 6160
117 Bishop Road NW1, 16 Old Broad Street, London EC4A 3DF
STA TRAVEL INFORMATION REQUEST LINE: 0171 361 6161

LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW, LEEDS, OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, BIRMINGHAM, BRIGHTON - STA TRAVEL

HOLIDAY TRAVEL INSURANCE

	WORLDWIDE	EUROPE	U.K.
Up To 3 days			£3.00
4 to 7 days	£18.65	£8.40	£4.60
8 to 10 days	£21.75	£10.45	£5.60
11 to 17 days	£25.96	£12.65	£6.90
Each Add Week	£7.40	£4.15	£1.50

ALL RATES ARE PLUS 2% IPT TAX

- Children under 2 FREE when accompanied by an adult
- Children 2-15 50% of rate • Double rates for all persons age 65 & over
- No double rates for U.K. • Double rates for winter sports

PAUL MASON INSURANCE BROKERS, DSP House, 86 West Hill Drive, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 1PU
Tel: 01623 633162/3/4 Fax: 01623 420439

Call 0171-375 0011

COLUMBUS DIRECT
TRAVEL INSURANCE
24hr Medical Helpline

BOOK DIRECT WITH HOTELS DIRECT

50% OFF

01865 481444

VILLAS & APARTMENTS

SPECIAL OFFER
£49 per night

Christmas booking now
Flights arranged through Gemstone

Call Sol Travel
01634 848005

LOW COST FLIGHTS

0171 361 6161

Lunn Poly
The UK's No.1 Holiday Shop

FREE CAR RENTAL*

WITH EVERY VIRGIN ATLANTIC FLIGHT TO THE USA

Book a Virgin Atlantic flight to the USA departing before 22nd February 1997 and we'll give you seven days free car rental* with SunCars. This includes unlimited mileage and Collision Damage Waiver but excludes compulsory US taxes.

And with regular flights to seven US cities, there's plenty to choose from too. With great offers like this, no wonder Lunn Poly is No.1.

Lunn Poly
A better way to holiday

ACCESS TRAVEL

01708 500 600

easyJet

Nice £49
Barcelona £49
Amsterdam £35
Glasgow £29
Edinburgh £29
Aberdeen £29

Single - Tax, Subject to availability
Atol 4053

0990 29 29 29

Affordable as a pair of jeans

AMERICAN & LATIN TRAVEL

From	To	From	To
CALIFORNIA	£259	BUENOS AIRES	£550
ORLANDO	£259	CARACAS	£350
WASHINGTON	£199	MEXICO CITY	£400
NEW YORK	£199	SAO PAULO	£490

LOWEST PRICES QUOTED TAXES TO BE ADDED

Tel: 0181 673 8888
Fax: 0181 675 3777

MADEIRA

FROM ONLY £249

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE FOR A WEEK'S HOLIDAY ON THE FLOATING GARDEN OF THE ATLANTIC

THE HOTELS

We have chosen some of the best 3, 4 and 5 star hotels on the island for their location, facilities and friendly atmosphere INCLUDED IN YOUR HOLIDAY PRICE

Return flights from Gatwick and Manchester to Funchal. 7 nights accommodation in twin room at the hotel of your choice. Buffet breakfast each day in the hotel. Transfers in Madeira. The service of our representatives on the island.

EXTRA WEEKS Also available at a small supplement.

For a Full Colour Brochure and Further Details Please Call
Telephone (01452) 381888
ATLANTIC HOLIDAYS LTD
25 Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JE

USA & CANADA
0171 460 2255

ATLANTA	NEW YORK
£249	£175
BOSTON	£179
CHARLOTTE	£229
CHICAGO	£259
CLEVELAND	£229
FT. LAUDERDALE	£269
FLORIDA	£249
MINNEAPOLIS	£279

BUSINESS & FIRST
0171 370 5671

NEW YORK	ORLANDO
£599	£899
BOSTON	£699
TORONTO	£799
MIAMI	£899

Free Fax 0500 765656
OPEN THE LITTLE BIT & TALK

QUEST WORLDWIDE
Flights Worldwide from Around the World

SYDNEY	DELHI
£495	£339
PERTH	£399
AUCKLAND	£719
MANILA	£379
HONG KONG	£449
SEOUL	£449
TAIPEI	£449
BEIJING	£449
TOKYO	£449
OSAKA	£449
YOKOHAMA	£449
SHANGHAI	£449
HONG KONG	£449
GUANGZHOU	£449
SHENZHEN	£449
CHENGDU	£449
KUNMING	£449
WUHAN	£449
CHONGQING	£449
QINGHAI	£449
LANZHOU	£449
DIYALU	£449
CHANGCHUN	£449
QIQUHAR	£449
HEILONGJIANG	£449
JIANGSU	£449
SHANXI	£449
HEBEI	£449
SHENJI	£449
JIANGSU	£449
SHANXI	£449
HEBEI	£449
SHENJI	£449

SPECIAL! BUSINESS CLASS
L.A. - LONDON £2,000

TECNO TRAVEL

SCHEDULE AIRLINES DAILY DEPARTURES OCTOBER OFFERS

DELHI	S. FRANK	DALLAS	DUBAI
£344	£350	£280	£280
NEW YORK	£280	£280	£280
DELHI	£280	£280	£280

For friendly, efficient service call
0171 482 0414

Regency
FLIGHTS

ATLANTA	NEW YORK
£249	£175
BOSTON	£179
CHARLOTTE	£229
CHICAGO	£259
CLEVELAND	£229
FT. LAUDERDALE	£269
FLORIDA	£249
MINNEAPOLIS	£279

0171 419 1919

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE FROM £46.

With insurance starting from just £46, contact the name you can trust for the best deals on Annual Multi Trip cover. Other policies available - Call for details. For travellers under 65 years only.

GA
General Accident Direct

TRAVEL DESIGNS
HOLIDAYS FROM £189

0171 432 322

LOW COST FLIGHTS

USA CANADA AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND SOUTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN FAR EAST
MIDDLE EAST AFRICA
THIRTYWAY TRAVEL
0171-430 1490

THIS CLASSIC BOOK

The end of another perfect day. You've explored the grandeur of a capital city, the charm of a small fishing village or beaches of coral sand. Or perhaps just soaked up the sun all day by one of the ship's pools. And tomorrow - new sights and new adventures. For now it's an aperitif on deck as a golden sun sinks slowly in the sea. At this moment you know nothing can compare with a classic cruise.

Our great cruising tradition

With Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines tradition goes beyond classic liners, elegant décor and sumptuous surroundings, beyond barely remembered standards of courtesy and service, beyond fine wines, superb cuisine and variety of entertainment.

Tradition runs through generations of Fred. Olsen family seamanship and expertise, qualities reflected in the pride and commitment of the company's management, officers and crew.

For information, ask your travel agent, telephone us or post the coupon - with more cruises than ever on offer we have written a beautiful new brochure. It's a classic.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines
A TRADITION OF CLASSIC CRUISING

The book puts you in the picture has 92 pages of glorious cruises. BLACK WATCH and BLACK PRINCE from DORSET TO SUPERS NEW CRUISE TERMINAL TO EXCITING PORTS-OF-CALL ACROSS THE WORLD - FROM AROUND AFRICA TO THE AEGEAN, FROM NEW ENGLAND TO THE NORWEGIAN FIORDS, FROM THE CANARIES TO THE CARIBBEAN.

BOOK NOW & SAVE UP TO 20%
with early booking discounts still available if you book now. Post to: Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, PO Box 11, Longhorough LE11 1ZY
Or telephone 01509 215 900

DO YOU LOVE HOLIDAYS?

...but not alone!

He says & weekends for single people. You'll never travel alone again.

Age groups 30-49 or 50-69

Ring now for a brochure
0181 951 2811

Oasis

At Oasis we put together small groups to discover the great outdoors on over 30 great holidays around the world.

For people in their 20s to mid 30s

- Easy walking, challenging hikes, history and culture
- Destinations across Europe, the Americas, Nepal and North Africa
- Get a life - go Global

For a brochure phone, fax or write
Box 43, Welwyn Garden, AL8 6PQ
Tel: 01707 573988
Fax: 01707 535278
As part of Tomorrow's Holidays - call 1845

PAN TOURS

0171 821 7000

Book your Summer '97 Holiday now, and save up to £150.

OFFER EXTENDED TO 31 OCTOBER 1996

Next Summer EuroSites brings you even more choice in holiday destinations. Choose from over 100 countries and regions. Book now and save up to £150. 15 additional offers including 2 in 1 Service.

EARLY BOOKING OFFERS

- LOW DEPOSIT OF £25
- SAVE UP TO £100 on EuroSites
- FREE VOUCHER FROM ONLY £25 UP TO £100 - LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE 1997 PASTURE BROCHURE
0161 238 5262

Malta

maltatours

7 nights £219

0171 821 7000

Spain

SPANISH Affair

Villas with swimming pools, cottages and villas in quiet, scenic locations. Our selection features quality properties in the most delightful coastal or mountain settings.

Andalusia, Catalonia, Extremadura, Galicia, La Rioja, Madrid, Navarre, Portugal, Valencia, Canary Islands.

0171 385 8127

India

TRANS INDUS
0181 566 2729

Australia & New Zealand

OUT NOW Our Fabulous 140 Page Brochure

100's of hotels, highlight tours, camper vans, budget & youth travel, car hire, flight only, Multi centres Far East, USA and more.

Plus the Best Service & Finest Prices Available. Call Now
01202 434320

Caribbean

Cuba £649

COACH TOUR & STAY 11 NIGHT HOLIDAYS FROM

0113 236 1502

On Saturday 29th September The Independent will publish a 2 page India Special.
For further information please call the Travel Team on 0171 293 2335.

If you really want to see the baby elephant that was on 'Blue Peter', then there's only one place you can go...

The visitors

Malcolm Millar, a university lecturer, and Caroline Millar a freelance writer, took their children, six year old Thomas and three year old Claire to Chester Zoo, the largest zoo in Britain.

Thomas: I think the baby elephant was worst because it's boring. When I saw it in Blue Peter it made me want to see the zoo. I did expect that the free Blue Peter badges wouldn't be there anymore and they weren't. But if I was the zoo-keeper I would let people come in and stroke Karla. The

A high-contrast, black and white photograph. In the upper left, a person's face is partially visible, mostly in deep shadow with some highlights on the forehead and cheek. The person appears to be looking down. In the foreground, a large leaf with prominent, light-colored veins is spread out, partially obscuring the lower part of the face. The background is dark and indistinct.

Caroline: Bearing in mind the volatile emotional life of small children, the day was a success. Chester Zoo does make great efforts to welcome families.

I have to admit I was moved when baby Karha reached her trunk out over the barrier and gently nuzzled Claire's leg. To be touched by an elephant was worth hours of David Attenborough.

The animals looked comfortable and well-cared for, and there was a good deal of information on them and their habitats.

The deal
Location: At Upton by Chester. Entrances on the A41 and A5117.
Cost: Adults £7.50, Pensioners £5.50, Children aged 3-15 £5.00. Under 3s free. A family ticket for two adults and three children costs £26.00.

Location: At Upton by Chester. Entrances on the A41 and A5117.
Cost: Adults £7.50, Pensioners £5.50, Children aged 3-15 £5.00. Under 3s free. A family ticket for two adults and three children costs £26.00.

For further details: Telephone 01244 380280.
Access: Wheelchair and buggy access to most parts of the zoo.
Food: Two cafeterias and a restaurant.
Toilets: All you could want. Plentiful, clean, well sign-posted. Baby Changing rooms and disabled toilets.

Exhibit: The Museum for children
3-12 years old
Young visitors are actively encouraged to touch, listen and smell as well as look and share their discoveries with adults. A highlight, among the 400 interactive activities, is Me and My Body, which illustrates the workings of the human body. Children can step inside a giant mouth to see a wobbling tooth, play pinball digestion and learn how the joints work by riding a skeleton bike. Introduced by Scott, the talking robot.
Discover! Tel. Halifax HX1 2NE
(01422) 2069/01426-983191 Children
£2, £3.75, adults and children over 12,
£4.75, under-3s free. Save ticket for up
to four visitors, £14.95. Open 7 days a
week 10am-5pm

This all-weather science and industrial heritage museum offers children the chance to walk through a tornado, travel on a virtual train or be transported to a 19th-century coalface. Outside there's a Colliery tour conducted by ex-miners and a Wild Water playground in which children can learn about the importance of water in our everyday lives. Today there's a special bird watch where children can identify kingfishers, song thrushes and the rarely seen Hobby.

Ashby Rd, Coalville, Leicestershire
LE67 3LN (01530-510851)
Children, £2.75, adults, £4, family ticket, £10. Open seven days a week, 10am-6pm.

A museum rather fittingly set inside Bristol's old railway terminus, an imposing structure built by the Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Who knows what the whisky old Victorian would have made of today's bright lights and buttons. Here, children can step inside the world's largest acoustic guitar or watch spectacular chemistry shows (gas-filled bubbles, liquid gas and fireworks) on the dimly lit main floor. There's also a Stardome Planetarium. Special events run throughout the year. At the moment, Puzzlemania challenges visitors to escape from the Colour Maze, build a giant Soda Cube and unlock a prehistoric hut. Bristol Old Station, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QP (0117 5079000). Children £3.25, adults, £4.75, family, £14, under-5s, free. Open seven days a week, 10am-5pm.

Liese Spencer

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number,
Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

SIRIUS

The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency

Call free 124 101 on
0300 072 0075 for

- Brochure
- CD or Tape with further details
- Descriptions of the first 10 people in your area you may wish to meet

FREEPOST to London SW16 1EX

The Largest and
Longest Established
agency with personal
interviews

Wherever you live your
agent representative
is likely to be
within 25 miles



8.00am to 10pm 7 days a
week

[illegible]

Personal

**INFERTILE
WOMAN**
*desperate to find
egg donor.*

Please contact nurse Jane
on 0171 224 0707,
quoting reference no.
07468

a new Justice' Licence authorises to sell retail interesting. Some of the descriptions are conspicuous. ON OFF for the previous three at the front ground floor of Canada TV, City Centre, Manchester M60 9ER and is known as "Commercial Break" and which sell property. Limited liability partnership office is situated at Storehouse House, 13 Colville Road, London SW1A 1TG is the nearest.

Dated this 7th day of September 1999
**MALINNE LANDAU, SJ James's Court
Brewers Street, Manchester, M2 2
Solicitors & Registered Agents for H
Applicant.**

[illegible][illegible]

At a time when the dividend yield on Wall Street is lower than it was before the crash in 1929, professional investors have found comfort in huddling together like sheep

There can be few doubts about who has been the talk of the town this week in the investment management business. The man making the headlines has been Tony Dye, the man responsible for the UK fund management arm of the Swiss bank UBS. He, as I mentioned just a few weeks ago, is the fund manager who since the start of last year has been not just consistently but exceptionally and openly bearish about Wall Street.

As the New York market has continued to power up, defying all the doomayers, his contrarian position has inevitably attracted increasing attention. His heavily underweight position in American shares, coupled with his firm well down the industry's performance league tables in recent months, leading so it seems, to mutterings from some of his clients.

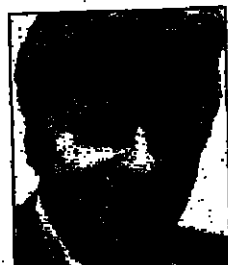
As PDM shares with Mercury Asset Management the title of the largest pension fund manager in the country, we are talking about one of the heaviest hitters in the whole London market, and therefore about large sums of money.

PDM manages a total of £51bn for its pension funds clients. Thanks to the strategy endorsed by Mr Dye, it now holds over 15 per cent of this pile in cash, the highest level for many years.

It is, one suspects, of only marginal comfort to PDM that the reason their man is in the headlines is because of his investment policy – rather than because of some scandal in the way its funds have been administered.

What makes PDM's stance stand out is not so much what Mr Dye and his colleagues think about Wall Street and stock markets generally, but the certainty with which they have stuck to their bearish views, and the extent to which they have been prepared to back them when it comes to implementing their investment strategy.

Most UK fund managers, as it happens, are also wary about the level of the American stock market. The statistics show that UK pension funds collectively have been net sellers of US shares for five of the last six quarters, and their holdings of US shares have fallen from roughly 7 per cent of their portfolios to just 4 per cent in the last four years.



JONATHAN DAVIS
INVESTMENTS

Managers of investment trusts and unit trusts have also been scaling back their holdings in North America because of concerns about the high valuations being put on most Wall Street stocks. At the same time their holdings of cash have roughly doubled over the same period.

But few professional investment managers have taken this view to the same extremes as Mr Dye. So concerned is he about valuation levels that he has cut his holdings of US equities to virtually nothing, and raised his cash holdings to two-and-

half times the industry average. This stance only makes sense, in investment terms, on the assumption that the US and other stock markets are going to fall quite sharply in the near future.

Amid all the headlines, Mr Dye remains defiantly certain that he is doing the right thing. And quite rightly too. He is being paid handsomely to back his investment judgement, and it would be ridiculous to change his mind or his methods just because everyone else seems to be taking a different line. All the great investors in history have made their money by having the courage to back their convictions when the herd was going down a different route.

Much of Mr Dye's reputation in fact rests on his ability to successfully outcall the rest of the market. He correctly anticipated the crash in the Tokyo stock market, for example, selling all his holdings there well before the Japanese market began its free-fall in 1989. The subsequent drop saw the market's value decline by 60 per cent before the tide finally turned last year.

One reason Mr Dye's stance now looks so lonely is that, while he has

been sticking bravely to his guns, other fund managers have been becoming increasingly consensual in their approach. Their investment strategies have been moving closer and closer to each other over the last two years, making it virtually impossible to distinguish one from another.

This is exactly what you would expect when markets are moving out of their traditional valuation ranges. At a time when the dividend yield on Wall Street is lower than it was before the Wall Street crash in 1929, professional investors naturally find comfort in huddling together like sheep. If things go wrong, they know they won't get fired if everyone else has made the same mistake that they have.

There is one other point in Mr Dye's defence. It is easy to forget that the money he is investing belongs to pension funds, not to speculators. Pension funds more than anyone need to take a long-term view of their investments. Their priority is to meet their long-term future liabilities without undue risk, not just to top a short-term performance table. The big unknown

is whether Mr Dye is right or not. There are two clear schools of thought. One says that Wall Street remains wildly overvalued, and is heading for a serious tumble, probably at the first sign of an increase in US interest rates (now widely expected to be imminent). Many smart investors, including Sir James Goldsmith, are known to share this view. The other school prefers to take the view that current valuations, while high by historical standards, can be justified because of special factors – the high level of one-off dividends, share buy-backs and so on.

Who is right? It is quite possible that the bull market will go on rising for a while before it finally stumbles. Robin Griffiths, my chartist friend at James Capel, now thinks Wall Street could shoot well over 6,000 before the bull finally expires next year. Mr Dye, we can be sure, is well able to look after himself. More worrying is the fact that he now seems so isolated. When professional investors behave more and more like sheep, it is normally a sure sign that a sharp movement in the market is on the way.

How to find a new home without getting into a flat spin

Ian Hunter on avoiding pitfalls for the unwary in the rented home market

This is the busiest time of the year for flat-seekers as the annual crop of students joins the growing numbers of people, most but not all of them young, looking for a place of their own. It should be an exciting experience, yet there are still plenty of pitfalls for the unwary entering the rented property market.

There is more property available for rent than there used to be but it is only a small slice of the total property market. Finding a flat is not always easy, particularly in a large city or a student town.

Often flat-hunters turn to flat agencies. Anyone using an agency should scrutinise carefully the terms of the agreement to ascertain in what circumstances a fee is payable. These agencies are subject to the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, which expressly prohibits agencies from demanding or accepting money in return for registering the name and details of anyone looking for accommodation. It also prohibits agencies

from charging for supplying lists of properties for rent.

Most landlords grant their tenants an agreement in the form of an assured shorthold tenancy. These agreements give the tenant a minimum of six months' security of tenure. However, at any time after the first four months of the tenancy agreement, the tenant can be asked to leave on two months' notice.

Tenants should, at the outset, be clear regarding their responsibilities under the lease. Usually the payment of bills such as gas, telephone, electricity and council tax will be the tenant's responsibility. However, the tenants should also be clear about other items such as responsibility for water rates and any repairs that may be necessary. Tenants will normally be responsible for effecting their own household contents insurance.

It is important at the outset to agree an inventory of the flat's contents which should be signed by both parties. It is

often advisable to take photographs of each of the rooms to avoid any subsequent dispute as to the condition of the property at the outset of the letting. Many landlords will insist on taking a deposit as security for any damage caused to the property during the tenancy.

Landlords are often reluctant to release the deposit at the end of the tenancy. It is therefore best, if possible, to avoid paying it out at the outset. If the landlord will not agree to this, an alternative is to pay the deposit into a joint account: by this arrangement neither party can obtain access to the money without the agreement of the other.

Another option is to offset the last instalment of rent due against the deposit withheld. If the deposit is unjustifiably withheld and no amicable agreement is possible, an action can be commenced in the small claims court. The necessary papers can be obtained from the local county court. The procedure is intended



Assured troubles: Autumn is a bad time to be flat-hunting.

Photograph: Paul Bulley

to be quite informal and is not as legalistic as normal court procedures.

A common complaint is that landlords either fail to act or are slow in carrying out repairs for which they are responsible. If this happens, provided the lease does not expressly forbid it, a tenant can

in certain circumstances set off the costs of doing the repairs himself against the rent that is payable. However, before tenants take such steps they should first give the landlord notice that repairs are needed. The landlord should then be given a reasonable amount of time to

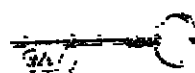
carry out the necessary work. Tenants can also seek to set off in respect of any loss suffered as a result of the landlord failing to honour his obligations. This may include items such as damage caused to property as a result of a leaking roof.

Failure to pay the rent will give the landlord, subject to compliance with certain procedures, the right to evict the tenant. Normally the landlord will obtain a court order. The landlord is also permitted to send in bailiffs in order to seize goods to the value of the rent outstanding. The landlord is not permitted to use force and cannot, under this remedy, arrive on a Sunday or after dark.

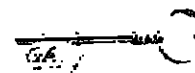
Once the goods have been seized the landlord must wait at least five days before selling the goods or up to 15 days if requested by the tenant. If the goods have not been repurchased by the tenant within this time limit for a sum equal to the rent outstanding the landlord may sell them at the best price possible.

AT LAST

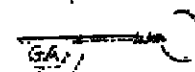
SERIOUS ILLNESS COVER MADE SIMPLE



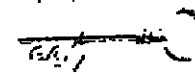
One free phone call to General Accident and you could secure cover to help with the cost of recovery from cancer, heart attack or stroke.



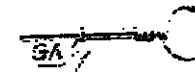
No lengthy forms to fill.



No medical.



Up to £100,000 cover.



Less stress for you and your family.



0500 100 200
CALL FREE LINES OPEN 24 HOURS



We'll send you further information on General Accident's Serious Illness Cover and a FREE Holiday Discount Voucher worth £50.

Take out a policy and, after three months' premiums, you'll receive a choice of Leisure Discount Vouchers or a further £150 worth of Holiday Discount Vouchers.

KEY PROTECTION FROM
THE
KEY PEOPLE

217/09

Full written details are available on request. For your security, your call with General Accident Life will be recorded. Any advice given will relate only to the products of General Accident Life. Serious Illness Cover is a ten year protection policy designed to pay out a cash sum on diagnosis of, or death from, heart attack, cancer or stroke during the term of the policy. Please note that some cancers are excluded. Directories containing full details of the Terms and Conditions applying to the vouchers are available on request. (Bookings are to be made through Travel Design Limited). General Accident Life Assurance Limited. Registered in England No 226742. 2 Rousley Street, York YO1 1HR. Registered by the Personal Investment Authority.

NOTICE OF LAUNCH

European investment – tax-free

- No overexposure
- No unquoted shares
- No initial charge
- No withdrawal fee
- No cost share exchange

From October, investors will be able to benefit from Legal & General's renowned Index-Tracking expertise across Europe by investing tax-free into the European Index Unit Trust.

By tracking the FT-SE 100, investors will gain exposure to all Europe's major markets without risk of overexposure to any one market or share – or any exposure to unquoted shares.

Whether you wish to invest or transfer an existing PEP – register for your information pack by calling or returning the coupon below or E-mail <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

The Index-Tracking PEP
0800 11 66 22

Please quote reference number TB610

Best performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. It is capital and income which are at risk as well as up and down movement in the share price. Tax advantages are those currently applicable and are subject to change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 11/09/96. Legal & General Investment Management Limited, Registered in England No 1091080. Registered Office: Ropewalk, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3DF. Incorporated in 1982 and the Financial Services Authority.

Post to: Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Limited, FREEPOST KT1 111, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, KT2 1HR.

Please send me full written details of the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE NO _____

If you already have any PEP investments, please tick here ☐. You will then receive a full written details of the products and services offered by the Legal & General Investment Management Limited. If you would prefer not to receive this, please tick here ☐. Please contact us at the above address or on the above telephone number.

Legal & General
Investment Management

It's a C
higher

Even up the od



من الأمل

It's a chill wind that bodes higher insurance premiums

The cost of household policies is set to rise. By how much depends on the weather, warns Tony Lyons

The days of relatively low premiums for household insurance are coming to an end. According to Touchline Insurance the market bottomed out in June, and insurance companies are all looking for domestic premium increases over the coming winter.

The costs for both building and contents insurance have been reduced over a number of years due to a number of reasons. On the one hand, claims experience has been favourable. Until recently, the insurance companies have seen claims stabilising and even declining in some areas such as subsidence.

At the same time, the rise of direct marketing insurers such as Direct Line, Admiral and others has led to the large composite insurers such as General Accident establishing their own direct sales operations. All this increased competition has contributed to premiums falling to their current levels.

Now this is coming to an end. According to figures recently released by the Association of British Insurers, the trade body representing the main insurance companies, payouts for claims on property insurance jumped significantly in the second quarter of this year.

Its figures showed that theft claims rose 13 per cent compared with the second quarter of 1995, claims for fire damage increased by 30 per cent, there was a rise of 105 per cent in claims for weather-related damage and domestic subsidence claims were up 133 per cent.

To put the figures into context, claims for damage caused by burglaries showed a small increase for

the first half of the year while fire damage rose 20 per cent on last year. Weather claims following the severe winter were £419m in the first quarter of 1996 and declined to £113m in the spring.

"After a period of stable or falling claims, the jump in insurance payouts in the second quarter of this year comes as a big disappointment," according to Mark Boleat, director-general of the ABI. "While these figures clearly show the value of insurance, they do add pressure on the industry for rate increases after a long period of largely stable or falling premium levels."

At present, according to Cornhill Insurance, the average premium paid for household insurance is around £170 to £180. This ranges from around £120 in the countryside to £250 or more in large towns and cities.

Over the coming year, the feeling in the insurance industry is that premiums for both buildings and contents could cost householders 10 per cent to 20 per cent more than they do today.

The size of any increase will be very dependent on the claims experienced due to weather conditions this coming winter. Another severe winter with mounting claims for damage caused by storms and frozen pipes will lead to premium increases at the top end of the range. If the weather is relatively mild, then the increases will not be as severe.

Some country dwellers could see a greater proportional rise than those living in the cities,

according to the ABI, as theft from houses is rising faster in rural areas. The big difference between crime rates in the town and the countryside has been diminishing as criminals have taken to the motorways to break into country houses.

With their ever more sophisticated means of determining premiums, usually using post codes, many policyholders living in the country could see their properties being assessed in higher rating bands than previously.

Building premiums have benefited from reduced subsidence payouts compared with a couple of years ago. But the fall in claims has coincided with the decline in house sales. Now that the housing market is improving, the insurance industry is expecting an increase in claims. Evidence of subsidence often only comes to light when a building survey is being conducted for a sale of a house.

Another trend spotted by the ABI is that of rising computer thefts from the home as well as from offices. Not all house contents insurance policies cover home computers, especially when they are used for work purposes. But where they are covered, householders could find themselves paying a separate premium just as many now do for bicycles and expensive garden equipment.

There are a number of things a householder can do to reduce the cost of domestic insurance. Inertia has led to many householders paying far too much for their insurance. Instead of remaining with one

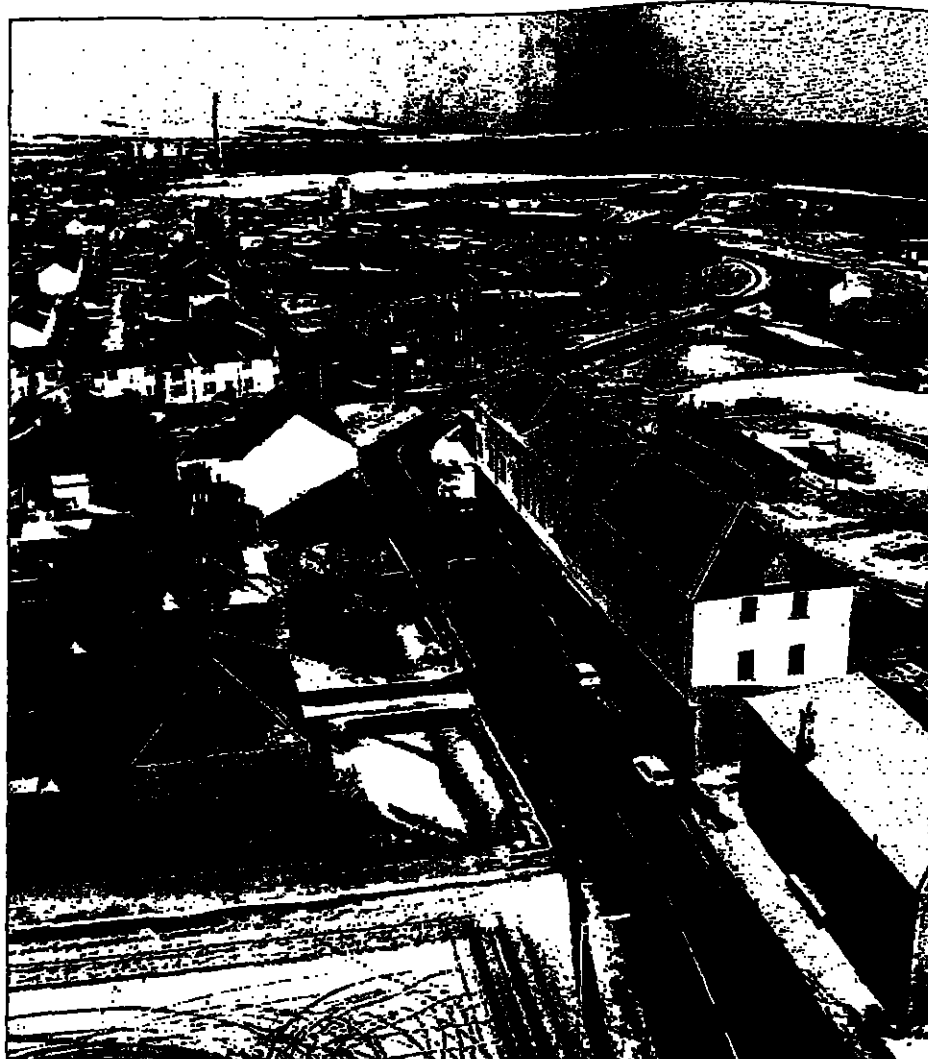
insurer, it pays to compare the rates offered by a number. This is particularly true when the insurance is purchased as part of a mortgage package. It is often cheaper to take out insurance independently and not just accept the policy offered by the mortgage lender.

A number of companies will now offer discounts to policyholders who take out building and contents insurance with them at the same time. A few will give a small no-claims bonus if there has not been a claim for one or two years.

Other discounts are also available. Most insurers will usually give between 5 and 10 per cent discounts to householders who have installed suitable locks on doors and windows, with further discounts available to those who fit burglar alarms. Members of neighbourhood watches often also get reduced premiums.

"Policyholders can do themselves some good by helping to keep down the cost of claims," says Mark Boleat. "There are clear incentives to do this in the form of generous discounts but it is in everyone's interests to take crime and loss prevention seriously. A little extra care can often make all the difference."

Sometimes it is possible to get a cheaper domestic insurance policy in the afternoon from one of the direct marketing insurers. Just as with private car insurance, the sales team has a daily quota to fill. In the late afternoon, if they are short of the requisite number, then the salesperson could quote a lower premium just to make a sale.



Severe weather warning: A bad winter could send premiums through the roof Photograph: Ian Torrance

Even up the odds of winning a million pounds

It's still one in 6.8 billion, but a punt on Premium Bonds is a better bet than the lottery, argues Ian Hunter

Failed to win the lottery for yet another week? Perhaps it's time to try another form of gambling where, even if you do not win, losing is not as painful. This 40-year-old game of chance offers every participant a monthly opportunity to win £1m. The Premium Bond may have entered a comfortable middle age, but it has still retained its powers of attraction.

Premium Bonds were first introduced in 1956 by the then chancellor Harold MacMillan. Since 1957 National Savings has paid out £3.2bn in prize money and a grand total of 53.42 million prizes.

The minimum Premium Bond stake is now £100 (compare that with how much you have spent on lottery tickets in the last two years). The maximum holding permitted is £20,000. Bonds can be bought at any post office or direct from National Savings.

Bonds are usually issued within three weeks of the date of purchase. Once the bonds have been held for a full calendar month they qualify for the prize draws. Each £1 unit

has an equal and separate chance of winning.

The winning numbers are selected each month by the Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment, known to a generation of punters as Ernie. The overall number of prizes awarded is fixed at 350,000. The prizes vary between £50 and £1m. The monthly prize fund is divided into three bands. The first 10 per cent of the prize money is channelled into awards between £1m and £5000. The second band, which amounts to 15 per cent of the prize money, provides prizes of either £1000 or £500. The remainder of prizes consists of sums of either £100 or £50. All prizes are paid to winners free of tax and winners are automatically informed of their good fortune by National Savings.

The good news for those who have moved house without leaving a forwarding address is that there is no time limit for collecting a prize. A complete list of the winning numbers is available at all main post offices along with a list of unclaimed prizes

which is updated every quarter. Anyone who has lost bonds or had them stolen can write to Premium Bonds, National Savings, Lytham St Annes, Lancs, FYO 1YN. It would be helpful if you can supply the account number or the bond numbers, but failing that you should supply details of where you were living at the time you bought the bonds and your present address and it may still be possible to track them down and issue duplicates.

Bonds can be cashed in at any time. An application simply has to be made to National Savings, with a signature for verification. The Bond is usually redeemed within 10 days. According to National Savings the odds against a single bond winning £1m are one in 6.8 billion, but one holder with just a £20 bond has already won a million.

A quick glance at the list of the 30 Premium Bond millionaires since 1994 seems to suggest that a way of increasing your chances of winning is either to move to the South of England, if you live in Britain, or County Antrim if you live in North-

ern Ireland. National Savings seeks to counter any regional paranoia by explaining: "It's true that more prizes are won in the South. But there's a very good reason for this, simply that more Bonds are held by people who live there. Ernie does not store names and addresses and cannot know where the holders of the numbers live. The winning random numbers are matched with the names and addresses of the winners only after the prizes draw has taken place."

National Savings also seeks to reassure Bond holders that Ernie is completely random. Each month Ernie's output is tested by the Government Actuary. These tests, according to National Savings, check that the numbers are free of bias and that each bond has an equal chance of winning.

However, a quick glance at the list of Premium Bond millionaires shows that the vast majority of winners purchased their holdings in the 1990s. Remember, it could be you and if it isn't, at no extra cost, it could be next month.

FREE BANKING FOR BUSINESSES.



At Allied Trust Bank you can have free banking and earn a high interest rate on your balance...

- 60 transactions per month free of charge.
- 3.50% gross p.a. interest rate.
- Standing orders and direct debits permitted.
- Minimum balance of £2,001.
- A first class postal banking service.

For more information please call our 24-hour answerphone on 0171 626 0879 or call one of our Account Managers on 0171 203 1550 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, quoting reference HTBCA.

Alternatively complete the coupon and FREEPOST it to us.

ALLIED TRUST BANK
A member of the Investec Group

Interest is paid gross to companies, net of lower rate tax to sole traders and partnerships. Interest rates may vary.
To: Allied Trust Bank Limited, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4BN
Please send me details of the High Interest Business Cheque Account.

Name _____
Name of business _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Allied Trust Bank Limited, Cannon Bridge, 25 Drogate Hill, London EC4B 2AT

PENSIONS BY PHONE

24 hours a day..... 7 days a week..... Now you can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

0345 6789 10

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

For your protection, your call to Scottish Widows may be recorded. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products.

Carat and stick approach to diamond investment

John Andrew offers a guide to the four C's for prospective gem buyers and hints on how to bypass the high mark-up high street jewellers



A gem of an investment: This 100-carat diamond sold for over £10m at Sotheby's in 1995

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

They last for ever, they come in different shapes and sizes, they range from moderately to astronomically expensive, you can wear them, especially if you are a glamorous woman, and men these days wear them too, especially in signet rings. The very word diamonds conjures up dazzling images of shimmering facets, great wealth and glamorous women.

A diamond may be a girl's best friend, it fits all the standard investment criteria, but is it something the shrewd investor could buy and sell at a profit? The answer is, however, not straightforward, because the world diamond market is controlled by the Central Selling Organisation which is managed by De Beers. Mention the word investment at De Beers' London headquarters and the response is immediate and emphatic: "Diamonds are not an investment. They are the ultimate gift and a store of wealth."

The aim of the CSO is to balance supply and demand to prevent wild fluctuations in the market price of the stones. As such the CSO sells diamonds, but it does not buy them back. Because of De Beers' financial strength, the company can hold buffer stocks of diamonds not currently in demand, releasing them on to the market in an orderly flow when demand increases.

Last month Russia announced it was closing its Committee for Gemstones and Precious Metals, which controlled, amongst other things, the sale of diamonds mined in Siberia. It renewed fears that Russia would no longer sell its diamonds through the CSO but independently on the open market. If this happened, the price of diamonds could have plummeted. However, although the Russians desperately need hard currency, they are hardly likely to shoot themselves in the foot.

The rough diamonds from the big producing nations that belong to the CSO go to its London offices. There they are sorted into over 5,000 categories of number of shape, quality, colour and size. Even if obtainable, such a vast number of categories is a good reason for not even contemplating buying uncut stones.

Once sorted, the diamonds are blended into a "selling mixture" in preparation for the 10 annual "sights"

in London, at which the rough stones are sold to some 160 clients of the CSO. The mixtures are offered at a non-negotiable price. Bargaining is only allowed for individual stones in excess of 10 carats.

Rough diamonds may not be an investment, but, how does one go about getting value for money on cut stones? The question may appear straightforward, but the answer is complex. As De Beers states in its excellent leaflet, *Quality and Value*, which is available from all good jewellers or direct from the CSO, "There's more to diamonds than meets the eye."

The characteristics that determine the quality of a diamond are known as the 4C's: colour, clarity, cut and carat, which is the stone's weight. The most sought-after colour for a diamond is one where there is no colour at all.

Clarity relates to the impurities in a diamond. The more impurities, the lower its price per carat. An internally flawless stone is known as "IF", whereas those with only very slight inclusions, which can only be seen with difficulty from the back of the stone using a 10x magnifying glass, are known as VVS1 and VVS2. Minor inclusions, which are still difficult to see with the untrained eye, are referred to as VS1 and VS2; noticeable inclusions which are easy or very easy to see with a 10x lens are SI1 and SI2, whereas those with obvious inclusions are I1, I2 and I3.

The precision and delicacy of the cut dictates the maximum amount of light that will be reflected through the diamond. When the stone is cut to good proportions, light is reflected from one facet to another and dispersed through the top of the stone. If a diamond is cut too deep or too shallow, light escapes through the bottom of the stone.

Finally there is size - 95 per cent of all cut diamonds weigh less than a carat. However, it is the inter-relationship of the 4C's that determines a diamond's value. A flawless, colourless one carat stone of good cut will be worth more than one which is twice the size but is near colourless with very minor inclusions.

If you want to buy a single diamond, the jeweller is still the best bet. It is a well-known fact that the mark-up of high street jewellers is one of the high-

est of retailers. But there are good reasons for this, the main one being the high value of stocks they have to hold to give their customers a choice. So, would it not be better to buy a cut stone and have a ring made? While perfectly possible, Andy Bone at De Beers admits that it is difficult for the public to buy an unmounted stone in Hatton Garden.

Although the supply and demand of rough diamonds is controlled, the price to the consumer is not. As one jewellery dealer, who wishes to remain anonymous, told me, "The differential between the buying and selling price of stones in Hatton Garden, London's diamond centre, is enormous - 100 per cent."

However, there is another way forward. In April, Sotheby's held its first auction of unmounted brilliant-cut diamonds in London, with most of the gems selling in the £700-£2,000 range. Each piece was sold with a laboratory certificate giving the classification of the stone. The buyers obviously included dealers, but also private buyers wishing to have pairs of earrings or a solitary ring made.

A working jeweller will charge around £300-£350 plus VAT to have set a one carat diamond mounted in a handmade ring. A high street jeweller could well add a 100 per cent mark-up for arranging to have the work undertaken. Given that one carat near colourless stones were selling at around £2,000 at Sotheby's in April, even a DIY approach does not come cheap.

However, at the end of the day, one will have a jewel that will mean far more to both the giver and the wearer than a similar piece just selected from a jeweller's stock. Nevertheless, for those with the time to search for what they want, the purchase of any item of jewellery on the secondary market - either from a jeweller or at auction - still represents the best value for money. Typically a solitary ring which will retail new in a high street jewellers at £4,000 will sell for half that sum on the secondary market.

FACT FILE

For copies of De Beers' leaflets on diamonds telephone 0171-404 4444. Details of Sotheby's new sale of unmounted cut diamonds telephone 0171-493-8080.

WE'VE TAKEN THE BEST BITS
FROM OTHER INVESTMENTS AND
PUT THEM INTO OUR
HIGH INCOME FUND PEP.

No entry
or exit
charge!

7.4%
PA
TAX-FREE

Low Annual
Charge

Now you don't have to tear through the financial pages, trying to find the best deals. off on management fees. Ours is a very low 0.75%.

We've selected them for you and put them in our High Income Fund PEP. If you'd like your money to work harder, invest a couple of minutes in a phone call.

To start with you're offered a tax-free income of 7.4% p.a. And you pay no entry or exit charges. Our salaried advisers are trained to give you helpful advice and information and can send you a free fact pack.

We also think you shouldn't be ripped off. It'll cut out the need to look any further.

CALL NOW 0800 800 800
8AM TO 7PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

SAVE & PROSPER

*Estimated gross redemption yield at 17.9.96. (gross running yield 7.67%). The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Part or all of the annual management charge may be paid out of capital - while this will enhance the income distributed it may constrain capital growth. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Fleming and Save & Prosper Marketing Group. Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR. Please send me details of Save & Prosper's High Income Fund PEP.

Mr/Ms/Miss Address: Postcode: Home Tel No: Work Tel No: So that we may call and offer further information.

1740/040

INVESTORS
CHRONICLE
THE CITY INSIDE OUT

CITY TRIAL VERDICT

The winners of the Stockbrokers Awards 1996 are announced in this week's issue of Investors Chronicle. We reveal the names of the UK's best stockbrokers - as judged by their customers.

brokers think of their customers!

Plus we examine the impact of nominee accounts and Crest, and find out what's being done to safeguard the assets of the private investor.

More than 1000 Investors Chronicle readers give you their verdict on service and value for money from stockbrokers across the UK.



Find out what readers believe makes a good stockbroker... and what

To find out what you should demand from your stockbroker pick up Investors Chronicle from your newsagent.

On sale Friday, 20th September. Price £2.20.

هذا من الأصل

Easdaq is the open sesame to Europe

William Gleeson on the importance of a new market

The opportunity for the private investor to invest direct in smaller foreign companies is something relatively unheard of. If you want to get a piece of the action in Spain or Malaysia the usual thing is to invest in a unit trust growth fund specialising in a particular geographical region.

The pan-European stock market, Easdaq - European Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation - which starts trading on 30 September may change all that. When the market is up and running both institutional and private investors will be able to buy and sell shares in European and American growth companies with the same ease as domestic shares.

The first two companies, Artwork Systems, a Belgian software company, and Innogenetics, a Belgian bio-tech company, have just asked for a listing. The new market is, as its name implies, modelled on the Nasdaq market in the US. It is not a high-risk market such as AIM run by the London Stock Exchange. For admission to Easdaq, companies will have to fulfil entry requirements closer to those required by the London full list or the New York Stock Exchange rather than the scantier requirements of AIM. Companies must have the backing of sponsors, who will be liable for

ensuring that the flotation prospectus and ongoing trading statements and results announcements meet full blown US GAAP or International Accounting Standards.

The sort of company they want to see on the market is likely to have a trading record and a management with a proven track record. It may well be active in European markets and may want to benefit from an increased profile overseas. By listing on Easdaq, companies will get exposure for their press releases on results, trading conditions, contracts and prospects in newspapers across Europe.

Almost by definition, a multinational market will be bigger than any one national market. There will be more investors than in any one country's stock market - a point which is particularly true for Continental growth companies. This means more buyers and sellers, which together with the market maker system Easdaq has opted for, should result in higher levels of liquidity or price-earnings ratios than might be anticipated should the same company float on its national market. Consequently capital growth should be more dynamic.

The history of the Nasdaq market in the US is a good omen for its new European sibling. Since its

launch in 1974 the main Nasdaq index, the Nasdaq 100, has outperformed the indices of all other main stock markets in the US and Europe. The historical and projected p/e ratios of Nasdaq companies tend to be higher than those of the traditional blue-chip style companies that list on the NYSE.

The Easdaq attempt to recreate the same market conditions in Europe offers the investor an opportunity to scrutinise European companies and a chance to be the first to spot the next Microsoft or Cisco systems. Yet if Easdaq is such a good idea, why has it not been thought of before? At least one part of the answer is that the regulatory framework for the new market has only relatively recently fallen into place with national governments enacting the principles in the EU's Investment Services Directive and the Prospectus Directive.

Under the ISD, recognition as a stock market in one EU country means that recognition is automatically granted in other EU countries. The same goes for the financial intermediaries. A stockbroker authorised by one financial regulator in the EU has the automatic right to trade throughout Europe.

It is the same for issuing a prospectus to raise money on a public

stock market. Approval of a prospectus in one country means the same document can be used across Europe.

European stock markets have been nationally focused and concentrated on events within their own borders. Nowadays though, much business is conducted in a multi-cultural and indeed global context. Companies are seeking to integrate the way they operate across the world. Indeed the buzzword among management consultants is "globalisation". Once the trading mindset is in place it is not a big leap to deciding to try to raise capital internationally.

Whether there is an appetite for the new market in Europe is something that only time will tell. Traditionally, Europe, with the exceptions of Sweden and the UK, has not had a strong equity culture. Companies have been family owned and the state has been sufficiently generous with pensions to forestall the need for a large and active stock market for pension funds to invest in.

However in a recent report, *Flotations in Continental Europe*, HSBC James Capel speculates that this was about to change. The pensions issue is at the top of the political agenda in many European countries. Europe, says the report, is set to be the next emerging market.

As if to prove the point, fund manager M&G has announced a new European smaller companies fund. It believes the time is right to launch what it is hoping will prove to be one of their mainstream funds, attracting £100m-plus from investors. Easdaq, believes M&G, will create the interest and liquidity in smaller companies shares on the Continent that has been missing to date. The offer for the fund opened on 10 September and the fund starts trading on 30 September, the day Easdaq expects to open its doors for business.

Easdaq is clearly a radical idea. It may even be controversial. One can foresee the Eurosceptics getting upset.

All states need their institutions, including economic ones like central banks and stock markets. Commentators of the future may look back to this autumn and conclude that Easdaq was as vital a step in the creation of the European superstate as the common currency.

But might it all, eventually, go further? Could there one day be a Globex - a world-wide stock exchange, open 24 hours a day with dealers trading on the same screens whether located in Sydney or San Francisco? At the moment all that is preventing a Globex is the regulatory framework.



LOOSE CHANGE

Index-tracker funds which go up and down in line with the FT-SE 100 share or some other index have become extremely popular over the last 18 months, thanks to low initial charges and management fees, and the gradual rise in the indices in most main markets. But what happens when indices start to fall, as they probably will soon in the US and possibly the UK too?

Guaranteed stock market bonds offer capital protection but usually lock investors in for five or six years. Premier Equity protector from Premier Fund Management and John Govett (Jersey) offers investors between 40 per cent and 90 per cent of any gains in the index over three months but limits the maximum loss to 2 per cent by investing in a combination of options and interest-bearing deposits.

The next three monthly offer closes on 30 September, minimum investment is £5,000, there is an initial charge of 5 per cent of which up to 4 per cent goes in commission to intermediaries, and the annual charge is 1.5 per cent. Freephone 0800 212577 for details.

Barclayloan is offering Barclay customers personal loans combined with Barclayloan Lifestyles, the first ever customer card which entitles holders to a range of shopping discounts on travel, motoring, home and leisure goods and services.

The loan rates themselves range from 14.9 per cent APR on amounts from £7,500 to £10,000, rising to 17.9 per cent on amounts down to £3,000 and 20.9 per cent on amounts down to the minimum loan of £500. Call 0500 200 250 for details.

Three-quarters of employees in company pension schemes think they will have enough for a comfortable retirement but only 1 per cent now qualify for the maximum company pension of two-thirds of final salary, usually by working 40 years for the same employer.

To help them decide how best to top up their pensions through

additional voluntary contributions, or whether to switch to a personal pension NatWest is offering a fact-sheet, free by calling 0800 255200.

At least half the women in the UK are not making adequate provision for their retirement according to Mark Howe, head of pensions marketing at TSB. The bank has a free booklet (phone 0645 758700) to help women get to grips with state pensions, company pensions, and personal pensions, how to budget for retirement and how to make up for career breaks.

Nearly 90 per cent of people don't know the difference between private medical insurance (PMI), which pays the cost of private treatment and income protection (IP), which pays household and other bills if you are too ill to work, according to research done for Norwich Union Healthcare.

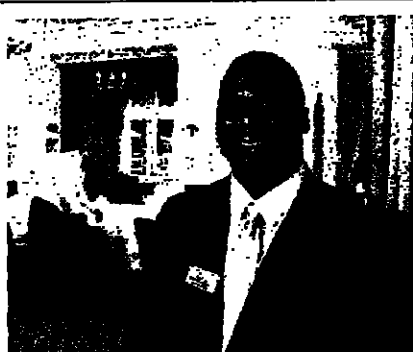
To help sort out the differences and explain what PMI and IP policies do, may, and do not cover Norwich Union is offering readers a free 46-page booklet. Definitions like moratorium policies which require no medicals but will not cover existing medical conditions you had within five years of starting the policy if they recur within two years, are particularly useful. Call 0800 424242.

Irish Life International has linked up with PPP Healthcare to issue a Lifetime Care Investment Plan which funds the care policy through investment in gilts, certificates of deposit.

Minimum single premium investment is £20,000, the long-term care benefits are between £400 and £3,000 a month and the initial capital can be run down to as little as £3,000.

Liverpool Victoria, the largest friendly society, is offering a new Health and Sickness Plan which pays out cash to help cover in-patient and hospital casualty charges, optical and dental cover, maternity benefits and income replacement. Premiums do not rise with age, policies cover children under 18 free, there are three levels of cover. The cheapest costs 92p a day.

Michael Gibbs, Banqueting Operations Manager, The Kensington Park, Kensington, London.



Karen Loughran, Laundry Supervisor, Hospitality Inn, Middlesbrough.

Nader Fawzy, Linkman, The Royal Horseguards, London.

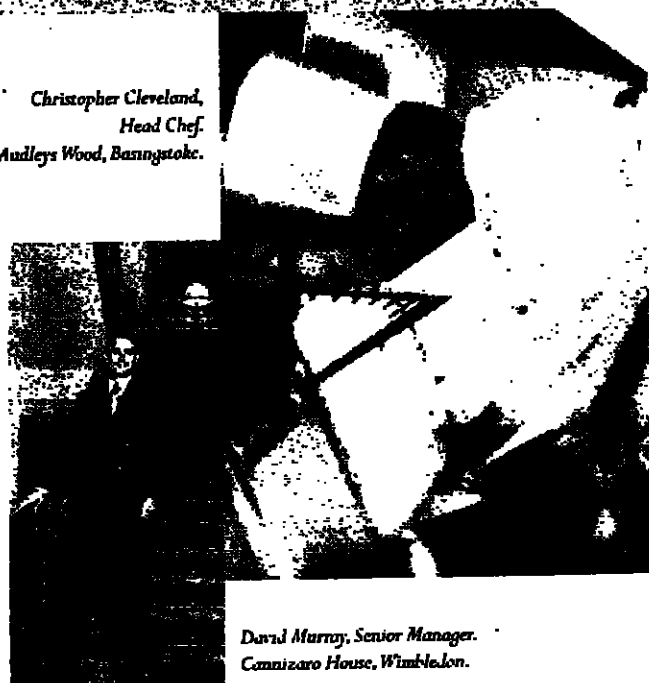


Christelle Guibere, Souffleuse, The Noble, St. Albans.



Emily Fletcher, Receptionist, The Royal Angus, Birmingham.

Christopher Cleveland, Head Chef, Audleys Wood, Banstead.



David Murray, Senior Manager, Cannizzaro House, Wimbledon.

APPLY NOW AND QUALIFY FOR A 15% SHAREHOLDER DISCOUNT AT THISTLE HOTELS.

Buy shares in the Thistle Hotels Share Offer and you will receive a 15% discount on hotel bills, restaurant bills and Thistle Hotels Short Breaks. The Share Offer closes at 5pm on Friday 27th September. To apply, contact your stockbroker or call one of the following share shops:

CITY DEAL SERVICES
0800 437437

HARGREAVES LANSDOWN
0500 404055

MIDLAND STOCKBROKERS
0800 210299

NATWEST STOCKBROKERS
0800 210212

SHARELINK
0345 665665

SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY
0800 1380800

YORKSHIRE
0800 736736

MORE CASH FOR YOUR ENDOWMENT. CALL SEC MONEYLENE NOW 0181 207 1666.

SEC will pay you much more money than the surrender value. Don't lose out on that extra cash! Please see your friendly helpful staff now.

Your policy must be at least 8 years old. FAX: 0181 207 4850

SECURITIES ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC
Sec House, 99 Theobald St, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 4EZ



All pictures taken on location at The Royal Horseguards Hotel and Cannon House, London. This advertisement has been issued by, and is the sole responsibility of, Thistle Hotels Plc and approved by Hargreaves Lansdown Limited ("Hargreaves") and Merrill Lynch International ("Merrill Lynch"), which are regulated by the SFA, solely for the purposes of Section 17 of the Financial Services Act 1986. Hargreaves and Merrill Lynch are acting exclusively for Thistle Hotels Plc and will not be responsible to anyone else for providing the information or for providing advice in relation to its proposed share offer. The value of shares can go down as well as up. Persons seeking advice should consult a professional adviser. Substantive/28.

Tony Lyons reports on the new wave of guaranteed growth and income bonds offered by building societies, banks and insurance companies

Offers open and close rapidly. Abbey Life, for example, closed its High Income Bond offer on 1 July, having attracted more than £250m, then a week later launched a second issue. The new bond offers an income of 9 per cent net a year, or 0.7 per cent a month, for five years to basic-rate taxpayers and a return of capital or accumulated growth of 55 per cent providing the FT-SE

Clerical Medical International, based on the Isle of Man, is offering a bond which will pay out 140 per cent of any rise in the FT-

It is important to remember that growth or capital bonds invest a high proportion of their money in derivatives so that they can benefit from stock market performance. They do not guarantee a full return of capital on maturity, or else offer a relatively low guaranteed growth with a top-up bonus dependent on the selected stock market index rising over the investment period. This means that when the higher income

But so long as the investor is aware of the risk, reads the small print in any advertisement or promotional material, and asks a financial adviser what the risks are, then these bonds could form a part of an investment portfolio.

Get cash against it. By Clifford German

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

هكذا من الأصل

Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
Fixed rates					
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.20 for 1 year	85	0.75%	1st 5 yrs: 7.04% of sum repaid
Norwich & Peterborough	01733 391497	6.45 for 3 years	85	£295	1st 5 yrs: 6 mths interest
Britannia BS	0800 526350	7.74 for 5 years	95	£295	1st 6 yrs: 180 days interest
Variable rates					
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	0.99 to 1/10/97	90	Refund valn fee	1st 6 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
Principality BS	01222 344188	3.60% to 1/11/98	90	—	To 30/9/01: discount reclaimed
Abbey National	0800 555100	5.74 to 31/8/01	95	—	To 31/8/02: ind determined
First time buyers fixed rates					
Alliance & Leic BS	via local branch	2.10 to 1/10/97	95	0.5%	To 1/10/01: 6 mths interest
Skipton BS	01756 700511	4.75 to 30/9/98	95	£295	Unemployment ins
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	7.49 to 1/10/01	95	£295	1st 5 yrs: 5% of o/s balance
First time buyers variable rates					
Principality BS	01222 344188	1.00 to 1/11/97	90	—	To 31/10/01: discount reclaimed
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	4.24% to 1/10/99	95	£295	Refund valn fee
Halifax BS	0800 101110	5.43 to 30/9/01	90	—	£300 & free valn

Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)
Unsecured			
Direct Line	0141 248 9966	13.9 E	With insurance £112.86 Without insurance £101.33
Alliance & Leicester	0116 262 6262	14.8	£114.93
Midland Bank	0800 180180	14.9	£115.82
Secured (second charge)			
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	7.5	Neg £3K - £15K 6 mths to 25 years
Royal Bank of Scotland	0131 523 7023	8.7	70% £2.5K-£100K 3 years to retirement
Barclays Bank	0800 000929	9.3/9.6	80% £10K-£75K 5 to 25 years

Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm	Unauthorised % pm	APR
Overdrafts				
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76	9.5
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76	9.5
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.94	11.9

Telephone	Card Type	Min Income	Rate % pm	APR %	Annual Fee	Int. free period
Standard						
Co-operative Bank	0800 109000	Advantage Visa	—	0.64N	7.90N	nil
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.8958	11.20	nil
Midland Bank	01702 353344	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.945N	11.90N	56 days
Gold cards						
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.4792	10.32	46 days
Royal Bank of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05 N	14.5 N	46 days
People's Bank Conn	0500 551055	MasterCard/Visa	£20,000	1.13	14.4	56 days

Telephone	Payment by direct debit % pm	APR	Payment by other methods % pm	APR
Store cards				
John Lewis	via store	1.39	18.0	1.39
Marks & Spencer	01244 681881	1.87	24.8	1.87
Sears	via store	1.94	25.9	2.20

APR Annualised percentage rate. B+C Buildings and Contents Insurance (LV Loan to value ASU Accident, sickness and unemployment). E Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years. N Introductory rate for a limited period.

All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01992 500677 19 September 1996

Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Instant Access					
Portman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.50 Year
Co-operative Bank	0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	4.75 Month
Direct Line	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	£10,000	5.50 Year
Direct Line	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	£50,000	5.75 Year
Instant Access Postal					
Teachers' BS	01202 587171	Bullion	Postal	£500	4.80 1/2 Year
Alliance & Leic BS	0645 228858	Instant Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40 Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 901109	Instant Access Postal	Postal	£10,000	5.85 Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 901109	Instant Access Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.05 Year
Direct Reserve					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Fixed Rate Bonds					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Fixed Rate Bonds					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Fixed Rate Bonds					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Fixed Rate Bonds					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Fixed Rate Bonds					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Fixed Rate Bonds					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Fixed Rate Bonds					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Fixed Rate Bonds					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Fixed Rate Bonds					
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£2,500	6.10 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Nottingham BS	0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	£25,000	6.40 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Manual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

P post only F fixed rate W net rate A All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest. All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01992 500677 19 September 1996

FEAR OF FINANCE
Clifford German

The analogy between sex and money is as easy as it is appropriate, and it has been taken up again this week by Claire Rayner, the well-known agony aunt, on behalf of the latest campaign to promote financial awareness among schoolchildren, launched this week by Audit the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds. (Call 0181-207 1361 for a free pack)

She sees kids in the Nineties "fumbling in the dark when it comes to managing their money", and there is little doubt that she is right. Market research regularly suggests that at least half the adult population does not know how to set about choosing a mortgage, almost half have never heard of a Tessa (tax-exempt special savings account) or a PEP (personal equity plan), which allows investors to hold shares free of both income tax on the dividends and capital gains on the profit when they sell.

Many punters by now know a company pension scheme which pays out a proportion of final salary is the best buy for long-term employees, the state earnings related pension is usually best for anyone over 45 years of age, and a personal pension is best for frequent movers, although employers are often reluctant to make a contribution, and many employees do not know whether their employers do or not.

But when it comes to choosing the best performing pension fund managers and the lowest level of charges most punters are still babes in arms, and the respective advantages of additional voluntary contributions, free standing or otherwise, are equally arcane mysteries. Don't take my word for it, the surveys all show a depressing combination of ignorance and/or modesty.

The evidence shows that less than a quarter of investors really know how to value a corporate bond PEP, or where to sell an endowment policy which is surplus to requirements rather than meekly surrendering it to the insurance company, or how to borrow against the security of the policy, or exactly what the advantages and disadvantages of a "guaranteed" bond are.

Fewer still know the attractions of an off-shore roll-up fund, or an income share in a split-level investment trust, or where and how to buy travel insurance or holiday money.

When it comes to borrowing the level of ignorance is equally high. No one can be absolutely sure whether interest rates are going to rise or fall over a given period of time. But many borrowers still do not know how to set about getting a discount or a cash-back without actually moving house, or whether to take out a personal loan or get credit from the dealer or retailer who sells them their next car or washing machine, how to choose the credit card which best suits their financial circumstances or the relative advantages of borrowing or leasing a new or second-hand car.

Yet any, and arguably all, of these things are important if not essential to a full and financially comfortable life. New issues like the need for mortgage protection insurance have become essential knowledge although less than 15 per cent of homebuyers actually have any protection while they wait to qualify for help from the state. The way things are going, private medical insurance and long-term care insurance to pay for residential care when we are old will be essential items of the curriculum within a very few years.

FIDELITY INVESTMENT TRUSTS

"Fidelity offered me a brand new concept."

Old fashioned value."

While there are many investment trusts on the market today, few can match the great value you get with Fidelity.

The percentage we charge for entry is somewhat lower than many others in our league. In fact it's 0% if you save monthly through our Investment Trust Savings Plan.

With only the Government Stamp duty of 0.5% to pay, there's no cheaper way to access top quality fund management.

Now Featuring Fidelity Asian Values.

Fidelity Asian Values PLC, now joins our existing range of investment trusts - Fidelity European Values PLC, Fidelity Japanese Values PLC and Fidelity Special Values PLC.

You can save into any, from as little as £30 per month. For more information please contact your independent financial adviser or call Fidelity on the number below quoting ref. ID2G.

To: Fidelity Investments, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9DZ. Please send me information on Fidelity's Investment Trusts Savings Plan. Fidelity will not disclose any of the details below outside the Fidelity Investment marketing group.

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____

CALL FIDELITY FREE ON 0800 41 41 10
Callfree 9am-6pm, Open 7 days. Fax: 01737 836 980. <http://www.fid-intl.com/uk>



Our performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of shares and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may get back less than you invested. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice based on individual circumstances. If shares are purchased through a professional adviser, commission may be deducted from your contributions. The annual management charge for FAV PLC, FAV PLC and FIV PLC is 1% and 0.95% for FSV PLC. Issued by Fidelity Investments International which acts as the manager of the Investment Trust Savings Plan and of the range of Fidelity Investment Trusts. Fidelity Investments International is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. ID2G



THE DEMANDS
THAT YOU'RE ADAPTABLE.
REACTIVE AND FLEXIBLE...

So demand the same of your pension.

If you're looking for a pension and you're baffled by the options, our highly trained Independent Financial Advisers can help you to find the best one for you.

Life changes and so do your expectations from your pension. There are times when it needs to be flexible and adaptable and times when you don't need to give it a second thought.

If you'd like a pension that gives you:

- The chance to have career breaks.
- Premiums paid throughout illness or accident.
- Almost all your money invested as soon as your pension plan begins so it doesn't disappear into setup charges.
- A bonus in return for long term investment in your pension.

Arrange an appointment with one of our Independent Financial Advisers.

To arrange an appointment with a Bradford & Bingley Independent Financial Adviser, please complete the coupon and return it FREEPOST to Neil Pickles, Bradford & Bingley Building Society, AD Mail 811, Bingley, BD16 2YN. Or call 0800 57 0800 to arrange an appointment.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POSTCODE _____
DAYTIME TEL NO. _____ EVENING TEL NO. _____
MOST CONVENIENT TIME TO CALL _____

Bradford & Bingley Building Society is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for Investment Business.

CALL
0800 57 0800

QUOTE CODE IN209 AND
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
WITH ONE OF OUR
INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL
ADVISERS.

Clifford German, Independent Financial Adviser, 10, The Quadrant, Bingley, BD16 2YN.



BRADFORD
& BINGLEY
INDEPENDENT ADVICE
Simply the right choice



DANCE

[illegible]

SHADES OF BLUE (18) Complex murder mystery set in Naples. **MGM Swiss Centre** 1.30 3.15 4.40 8.00

THE STUPIDS (PG) Family enthusiasm that

SHADES OF BLUE (18) Complex murder mystery set in Naples. **MGM Swiss Centre** 1.30 3.15 4.40 8.00

THE STUPIDS (PG) Family enthusiasm that

LES APPRENTIS (15) A French Withail & I about two down-at-heel men. M/GM/Sweat
A TIME TO RAGE (13) Manly-pussy sex action starring Sandra Bullock. ABC Tm On Rd 1.50, 5.55, 8.55; Barbican Cinema 6.00, 8.40; Virgin
Today 2-12pm. 435 mins.
Coteston:
Mixed by The One Evening Delirious's on
dinner party cause problems for two couples in Angela Huth's drama which spans Simon
Mist... 7.40-9.30am. 570 mins. £10.00,
Nov. 25, concs £3.50. Belvedere Road, SE1
(0171-960 4242) BR@ Waterloo.

Art Gardens
The artist's
single-
leader of epic
the High
to En.

**with a new
Low Line
the
the
En. \$22.50**

Blackwood.
011-71-9727

**brother of
011-71-936
Country-
the, Clearing
(5) @ Lolo-
7pm, \$5.**

**brother
011-71-9361
Town, Sun**

and Wallace/George Hamilton Billie Holliday's
pauze plays ambient, ethereal music
with baritone saxist Haslam.
Highway Music Room Highway Street
(01955-261384) Sun 7pm, \$B.

LITERATURE
London
Robert Shoppard reads with move-
ment by 13 dancers. **Evening Meeting House**
Torrance Avenue NW5 (0171-267 2751)
@ Kautish Town, Sun 7.30pm, £2, coats £1.

EVENTS
Ashford
Model Railway Exhibition 16th annual exhibi-
tion, with 35 layouts. **Evening Meeting House**
sham Road (01233-27430) Today 10.30am-
5.30pm, Sun 10am-4.30pm, £2, child £1.

Bristol
The Bandy Pool Show inspired by Scally, for
ages 5-10 years. **Bristol Old & 1 King Street**
(011-587 7077) Today 11am, £2.

Cardiff
National Astronomy Week Observing the
stars and planets. **Cardiff Museum** 10.30am-4.30pm, Sun 10.30am-4.30pm, £2, child £1.

Empire (see square 2.15, 4.40, 7.00, 9.30)
Virgin Tracodex 12.30, 2.30, 4.40, 7.00, 9.25
FALLER ANGELS (DOLLAR THUNDER) (118)
London
EVERYMAN Holborn W1 1M/2
What's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf? Also: a manipulative tri-gi-comedy starring Diana Rigg and David Suchet. Mon-Sat 7.30pm
star in Dickens' story of a young damsel who meets a handsome seducer. Today 1.30pm & 7.30pm. 18-40. 114-50. comes available
THE DOGE
Brighton Philharmonic/Worthing Rave's
Chertemham
Local Shows And Listings Submissions Include:

Women's World Exhibition and Kitchens. Food And Wine Festival, *Town Hall Imperial Square* (01423/227979) **Today & Sun, 10am-5pm, Free-E2.**

Dorchester

Amelia Clark & Company Worthington Dance workshop for adults and youngsters **14 Dorchester Arts Centre School Lane, The Grove (01248-269626)** **Today 11am-12.30pm, £2.**

Leamford

The Body Play Pudding Puppet performance for ages 5-5, 8-8 & Leamford Hill SW11 (0171-237 2252) **Bur, Gloucester Junction, Today 3.10pm, £3, cones £2.50.**

Ne 7 **Hampton Street** Puppets performance starring *Mary Magdalen* for ages 3-7, *Little Angel* **Hampton Theatre Dugger Performance Centre Street N1 (01747-202767) & Highgate & Islington, Today & Sun, 11am, 2.5, child/cones, £4.50.**

Stamley **High Street** *Black Show* Illusion for ages 4 and above, *White Hammerhead* **Long Street W10 (0181-741 2111) or Hammer-stones, Today 11am & 1pm, £5.**

Lighter Collectors *Flair Lighter roadshow*

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE (PG) Brian De Palma's film version. Empire Leicester Square 7PM-9.30. 7PM-9.30. Dreichwider (Sat)

THEATRE ROYAL

Bath

EUROPEANA

Stumm Clayton, Keith Dover, Pam Edwards, Dylan Moran, 8pm, Creek Road, SE10 (0181-8584381) BR: Greenwich £12.

PATRICK GIBBER QUARTET Acid Jazz-stillated multi-reedist with his groove-based quartet. The Gibbers Quartet. 7.30pm. £6-£10. South Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061)

Chinese Autumn Festival Celebration of the

Apr. £1.75.

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

Street, SW1: 11am.
 4 Spirit.
 Russell Street.
 The Rev Stan-
 Hood.

Why the Scots have an awful lot to answer for

It's funny how George Graham takes over at Leeds, and everybody expects miracles. Kenny Dalglish would be welcome at any club, anywhere; he could probably join the ground staff and the club would think their time had come. You see, the Scots have given us many things over the years, among them raincoats, whisky, welly boots, the bicycle pedal, the telephone, tarmac, penicillin, the Bank of England and an understanding of the active principles of cannabis. But they've also given us great football managers, as surely as even the most begrudging Sassanach will admit. Busby, Shankly, Nicholson, Stein, Dalglish, Graham and Ferguson have largely dominated British football since the 1950s. In fact, in the last 25 years Scottish managers have won the League Championship 11 times, nine of those wins coming in the last 12 years.

Jack Stein was the only one never to venture south of the border (you can hardly count two sorry months in charge of Leeds in 1978), but he did win back-to-back titles with Celtic from 1966-1974 (leaving Scotland's Old Firm with an obsession with the number nine which has reached a crescendo this season). The cyn-

ics will say Big Jock had little competition, but Stein's Lisbon Lions were as close to perfection as it gets.

We know why the Africans make great runners and the Chinese are perfect at ping-pong, but it's not easy to isolate why the Scots are so adept at managing football teams. Most of the greats shared similar working-class backgrounds, which is perhaps where the seeds of their desire were sown. It's not that they wanted to prove to their "soft southern counterparts" that they were better than them; they simply wanted to be the best.

The trend started with Sir Matt Busby in the 1950s, a man who even Shankly looked up to. When Shankly was manager of Huddersfield, Denis Law recalls seeing him stride up to the dressing room brandishing a trilby (a trademark of Busby's), putting it on at a jaunty angle and asking: "D'ye no' think I look like Sir Matt Busby, boys?" Shankly even drank sherry when Busby offered it to him, even though Shankly didn't drink. He played to the gallery did Shankly; he had a puritanical streak about him tempered with a wit that endeared him to his players, as Emyln Hughes

testifies: "He didn't want to appear weak in any way. He'd be running with you, laughing and joking. At the end of training he'd walk in and say, 'You know something, boys? When I die I want to be the fittest man ever to die.'"

Alex Ferguson did his compatriots a big favour by wiping out the argument that he was successful in management down south you had first to progress through the ranks of the English game. Fergie came south with impeccable credentials, but even he was almost sent home to think again before United (luckily for them, not so for the rest of us) kept faith in his ability to bring success to Old Trafford.

But despite producing some brilliant club managers, Scottish national managers have hardly set the heather alight. Paddy Crerand, who played for the blue jersey in the 1960s, believed that "if Busby, Stein or Shankly had been Scotland manager from maybe 1958 to 1970, I think you'd probably have seen the Scottish team win the World Cup finals." He did add that it may sound daft...

But Busby, Shankly and Stein would surely turn in their graves at the recent madness of the Scottish managerial merry-go-round. First to go was Jimmy Thomson, sacked by Raith Rovers three games into the season. He was replaced by Tommy McLean who stayed in Kirkcaldy just five days before being recruited by his brother, Jim "Gris" McLean, to take over from Billy Kirkwood as manager of Dundee United. It wasn't that McLean did it, it was the way he did it that shocked: just 45 minutes after Kirkwood had said his goodbyes and departed, McLean was

sitting in the same seat, posing for photographers and explaining how he would make the Tannadice club great again.

Next, Iain Munro leaves Hamilton, apparently to replace Jimmy Bone who had walked out at St Mirren. It transpires, however, that Munro hadn't signed a contract at Love Street and is set to become Raith Rovers' third manager in as many weeks. Instead new manager Tony Fitzpatrick takes charge at St Mirren (and immediately takes the heat off his players by taking them for a slap-up meal - at a Fabsley fish and chip shop). Who said the Scots knew how to celebrate in style?

Meanwhile Alex Smith resigns as Clyde manager, and Steve Archibald is sacked at East Fife. And don't be surprised if Hibs manager Alex Miller or Partick's Murdo MacLeod are next for the chop.

Jack Stein was right, up to a point, when he famously said: "We all end up forgotten men in this business. You're very quickly forgotten." The best will never be forgotten because they set standards for the rest; standards which the late, great Bill Shankly epitomised.

Leader learns from his wife

Golf

TIM GLOVER reports from Loch Lomond

Jean Van de Velde had a word with the wife and established a course record in the second round of the Loch Lomond World Invitational; Howard Clark spoke to his better half and promptly disqualified himself. "Some people can play the course, others can't," John Parmanor, the tournament director, said as the European Tour came in for more heavy flak.

The number of players below par dwindled to a handful on a day when the majority thought the positions of the flags made a difficult course virtually unplayable. The Anzac axis of Frank Nobilo and Peter O'Malley were particularly critical after scoring 79 and 78 respectively. "Some of the pin positions were ridiculous," Nobilo said, before packing his bags. "This is the sixth or seventh time it's happened this year."

Nobilo wants a non-European on the executive. "We would be more honest in our opinions," he said. Another player said: "All the members are Ken Schofield's yes men." Schofield, the executive director of the Tour, is still dealing with the backlash from the British Masters at Collingtree. O'Malley, who comfortably made the half-way cut here yesterday despite standing at six over par, said: "This is one of the best courses and they're gone and stuffed it up. The pin positions are an absolute disgrace. Someone needs to be fired. They won't listen and they haven't got a clue what they're doing."

Gordon Sherry also joined in even though he is the touring professional for Loch Lomond. He described the pin positions as a "joke", adding: "It's a stern enough test without making the course stupid. They have to make the greens softer. This is not the real Loch Lomond."

The discord was not unanimous and, in fact, the ground staff have been watering the greens, hardened by lack of rain, overnight. Colin Montgomerie, three strokes off the lead, gave short shrift to the moans. "Tell them to go and play in Asia," Monty said.

Van de Velde shot 65, coming home in 31 with just 11 putts. He put it down to a putting tip from his wife, Brigitte. "She thought I was doing something wrong," the Frenchman said. "She only plays about three rounds a year but she is an incredible putter."

Howard Clark, following an 82 in the first round, returned to his hotel, rang his wife and in the process of describing his round realised he had signed for a five at the 13th hole instead of a six. He informed the tournament office and was disqualified for signing for a wrong score. At Collingtree he also made a premature departure, on that occasion blaming a shoulder injury.

The par here is 71 although it is playing more like a 74. Nick Faldo had a 73 and at one under for the tournament is only two strokes behind Thomas Bjorn despite missing three short putts to drop strokes at the sixth, fourth and fifth. Faldo bade farewell to Tom Weiskopf, one of his playing partners and the man principally responsible for designing Loch Lomond GC, who finished at 15 over par.

Ferguson welcomes Villa test

First impressions are so often misleading. Three games into this season Sheffield Wednesday were the only Premiership team with a 100 per cent record. Everton were unbeaten and had the air of title contenders, Newcastle had lost twice and were playing like a bunch of misfits, and pointless Wimbledon were looking as though their Premiership days were numbered.

Three games later and the memory of those early Premiership tables is fading as fast as the light on a late September evening. Wednesday have taken one point out of the last six. Everton have lost three in a row, while Newcastle and Wimbledon have won three in succession.

Anyone who drew hasty conclusions from this season's opening exchanges would have done well to look back to last year. On last season's opening day Manchester United's youngsters lost 3-1 away to Aston Villa and it was only television analysts who were agreeing that "you'll win nothing with kids".

While Fergie's fledglings went on to win the Double, the match also proved a turning point for Villa, who had narrowly escaped relegation three months earlier. Brian Little's team ended the season fourth in the table and with the Coca-Cola Cup in their trophy cupboard.

When United were held to a goalless draw in the return match at Old Trafford Alex Ferguson described Villa as "dour and uncompromising", but as the champions prepared for their visit to Villa Park today their manager was more charitable.

"I have marked Villa down as a big threat to everybody this season and Brian Little has done a terrific job in his one full season in charge," Ferguson said. With an eye on United's match in the Champions League next Wednesday, he added: "They are powerful and play with three centre-backs, which is exactly the same way as Rapid Vienna, so maybe it isn't a bad game for us in that respect."

England's European contingent including both United and Villa, were excused from Coca-Cola Cup second-round duty this season, which could prove an advantage today to Liverpool and Newcastle in particular.

Paul Newman looks forward to an intriguing weekend in the Premiership

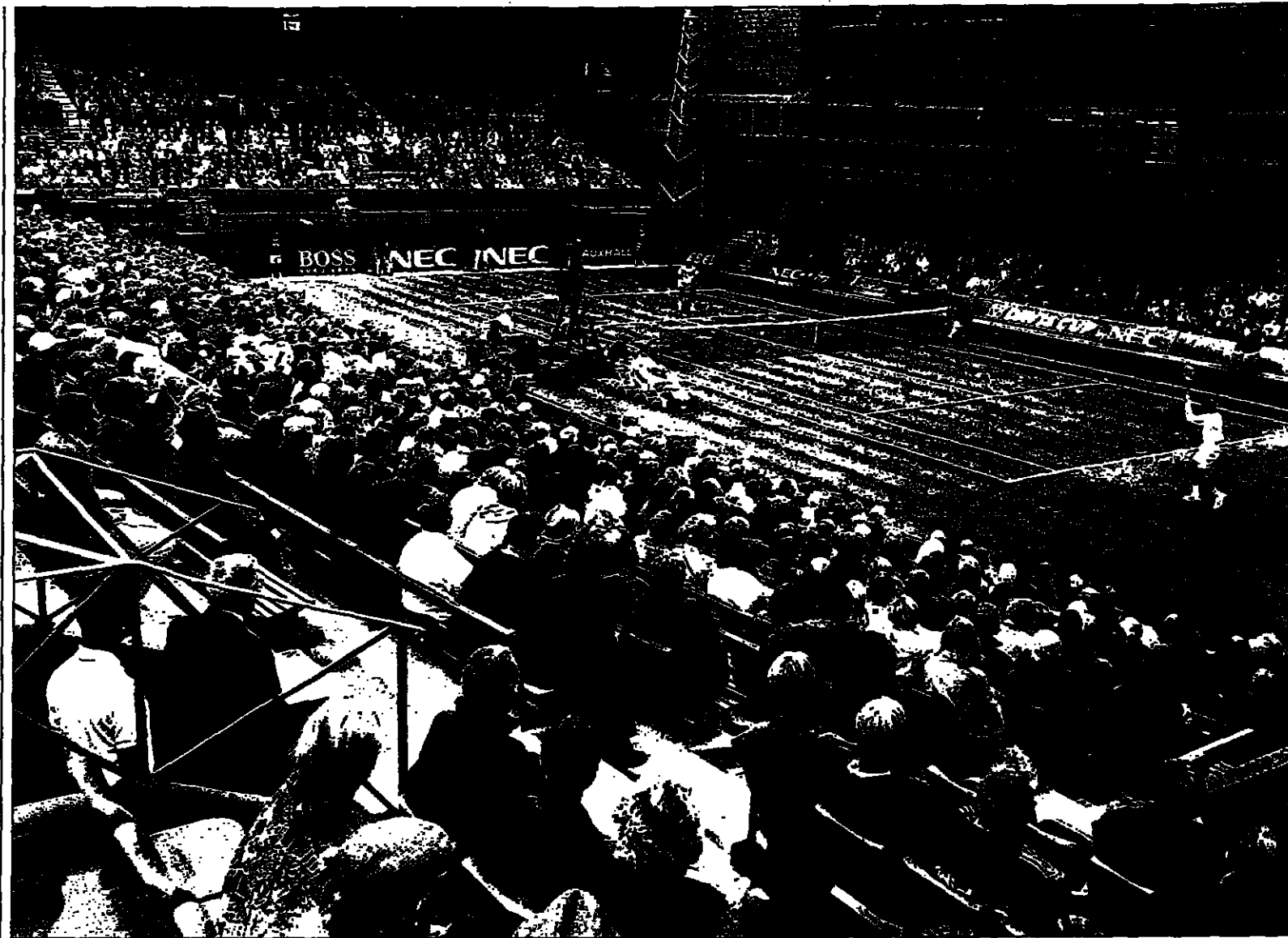
While Roy Evans and Kevin Keegan were able to focus their teams' attention in midweek on today's Premiership matches, their opponents, Chelsea and Leeds respectively, were concentrating on games against Blackpool and Darlington.

The Anfield meeting between the Premiership leaders and Ruedi Gullit's team is one to relish. Frank Leboeuf and Gianluca Vialli, rested for the trip to Blackpool, return, though Liverpool's major overseas summer signing, Patrik Berger, will have to wait until shortly before kick-off to find out whether he will make his full debut.

Berger scored twice after coming on as a second-half substitute at Leicester last week and hit two more for the Czech Republic against Malta in midweek. With Stan Collymore looking so out of touch, Evans may be tempted to change his starting line-up for the first time this season.

George Graham's first home match as manager of Leeds saw his new charges scrape a 2-2 draw at home to Darlington and Leeds again entertain North-east opponents for his first Premiership match at Elland Road. The challenge, however, should be even greater as the visitors are Newcastle.

Tony Adams, who underwent a knee operation after Euro 96, may play his first Premiership game for Arsenal since January after being named in the squad for the trip to Middlesbrough, while Paul Riechers is ready to make his first start in the Premiership for six months for Everton, who will hope to take advantage of Blackburn's problems at Ewood Park.



Sentimental farewell: Greg Rusedski (right) gives Britain a fine start in yesterday's Davis Cup match on Wimbledon's No 1 Court

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Rusedski gets ball rolling for Britain

Tennis

MIKE ROWBOTTOM reports from Wimbledon

So far, so good. Britain's Davis Cup team put themselves on the brink of promotion from the Euro-African second division yesterday as Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski earned straight-sets victories in the opening singles against Egypt.

If Neil Broad and Mark Petchey win their doubles match today, Britain will be competing next year for entry to the World Group of the top 16 nations. An absorbing, rather than anxious, day's competition - distressingly interrupted by the collapse of an elderly spectator with a suspected heart attack - was witnessed by a crowd of around 6,000. Many of them

were no doubt drawn by the sentimental opportunity of witnessing the last competitive action on the No 1 court before it is demolished.

The 72-year-old court's natural intimacy was enhanced by the sense that it was the sole attraction on a day overcast enough to have the press photographers frowning at their light meters and chilly enough for most of the 6,000 or so spectators to have come equipped with overcoats and blankets.

There was, thankfully, no call for the many umbrellas which had also been brought along following recent weather reports. No distant thunders of applause came from neighbouring courts. Between points, more often than not, the only sounds were the lanyards ringing hollowly on the flagpoles at the top

of the stand, and hammering echoes from the new No 1 court which is being completed in time for next summer's All England Championships.

Henman, who was returning to competition after injuring himself in the US Open, will be assured of a huge reception when he returns here next July. There was a sense of genuine excitement when he appeared yesterday, and he performed satisfactorily, despite the occasional lapse of concentration in a 6-0, 6-4, 7-5 win over 22-year-old Amir Ghoneim, an opponent rated 489 places below him.

Considering it was Ghoneim's first serious match on grass, he did astonishingly well, and had Henman in real trouble at 3-5 and set point down in the third. But the 22-year-old from Oxford responded to the challenge,

breaking back and then winning the next three games.

Comparing Davis Cup experiences with some of the players he now mixes with is uncomfortable for Henman. "When they hear that we are playing in division two it's embarrassing given the standard of team we have now," he said. "That's why we are very anxious to get out of this position to where we belong."

Rusedski had the harder task on paper, facing the top Egyptian Tamar El Sawy, ranked 174th in the world. The 24-year-old has played Davis Cup since he was 16, and last year he beat Karol Kučera, the Slovakian ranked 100 places above him.

But El Sawy's only experience on grass has been in Wimbledon qualifying tournaments; Rusedski, on the other hand, thrives on the surface, and he

soon acquainted his opponent with his serve-and-volley game, beginning his first two service games with two aces.

With the score at 2-2 in the first set, both players left the court for nearly three quarters of an hour as medics attended to the stricken spectator in the north stand.

On their return, Rusedski took command, winning the next four games to take the first set 6-2. The next set was relatively straightforward, as he won 6-4, and when El Sawy double faulted to go 6-5 down in the third set, the match was effectively over.

The Egyptian pair's hopes today were looking even less healthy as Ghoneim finished the day requiring an ice pack on a damaged racket hand.

DAVIS EURO-AFRICA ZONE Second Division (Wimbledon): G Rusedski (GB) vs T El Sawy (EG) 6-0 6-4 7-5; T Henman (GB) vs A Ghoneim (EG) 6-0 6-4 7-5. Britain lead 2-0.

SPORTING DIGEST

Twin Towers looking to lift London

Basketball

Twins Peter and Paul Deppisch stage a shoot-out at Wembley tomorrow when the London Towers try to bounce back against the Manchester Giants following their midweek defeat in the European Cup, writes Duncan Hooper.

The Giants this week signed Peter who, like Paul, is 6ft 6in and also a long-range three-point specialist shooter. Paul totalled 16 three-pointers in London's two wins in the Budweiser League last weekend. But he found Verona's defence a stiffer proposition in Italy in midweek and scored just once from 10 attempts as London lost 78-48 in their opening Cup game.

Beeston aim to retain their title

Hockey

The National League revised First Division gets under way today with a new format of 23 clubs meeting each other once during the season with the new "no outside" rule being played, writes Bill Colwill.

Last season's Second Division champions Beeston are looking to retain their title and this year gain promotion. For their home game with Hull they welcome goalkeeper Danny Williams from Southgate and newcomers Paul Sheardown from Hull, Brett Gillmon from Slough and Richard Stamp from Doncaster. Ian Patchett from Bourneville is expected to line up in the Hull squad.

Runners-up Oxford University - away to City of Portsmouth welcome back their coach, Gavin Featherstone, who took them into the National League, along with their captain, the Kiwi Matt Barr, will be joined by two compatriots, Nicholas Pirih and John McCormick, who played for Cambridge a few years back.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Seattle 7 Tampa 6; New York Yankees 9 Baltimore 3 (first round); Baltimore 10 New York Yankees 5; Boston 6 Detroit 3; Cleveland 9 Kansas City 1; Chicago White Sox 6 Minnesota 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Los Angeles 7 San Diego 6; Pittsburgh 6 Cincinnati 4; New York Mets 7 Philadelphia 2; Montreal 5 Atlanta 3; St Louis 5 Chicago Cubs 4 (13 innings); San Francisco 11 Colorado 4.

Boxing

Tommy Morrison, the former heavyweight contender who served months ago in prison for beating a man, is set to fight for the HIV virus, said yesterday that he plans to return to the ring. Morrison does not have a date, site or an opponent for his return. He told a news conference that the return fight would be a benefit for children with HIV and AIDS.

George Foreman has said he would gladly fight Morrison again: "I'll fight him, I sure would and I would try to knock him out," said Foreman, who lost by decision to Morrison three years ago. Peter Jackson set his sights on the British title he claimed rightfully belonged to him after stopping Dean Phillips to win the International Boxing Federation's intercontinental super-heavyweight title in Manchester last October. One month which will be played on the neutral ground of Herriot Hall Arena Stadium in Bologna, Italy, was brought forward to avoid clashing with a Group Two qualification between Italy and Georgia in Perugia.

August Stank, the former Austrian international, has been recalled to replace the disgraced Serbian Ljubo Petrovic as coach of the First Division club Casino Graz. Petrovic resigned last week after physically attacking one of his players in the dressing room.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Dallas Burn 1.

TRANSFERS: Wayne Burnett (Preston) to Huddersfield; Gary Birtles (Oxford) to Huddersfield; Steven Gerrard (Liverpool) to Everton; Gary A Kelly (Barnsley) to Barnsley; Gareth McAuley (Barnsley) to Barnsley; Ian O'Connell (Barnsley) to Barnsley; Michael O'Connell (Barnsley) to Barnsley; Paul Sheardown (Hull) to Beeston; Brett Gillmon (Slough) to Beeston; Richard Stamp (Doncaster) to Beeston; Ian Patchett (Bourneville) to Beeston.

Football

Reading's home game with Birmingham City, scheduled for 1 October, has been postponed because the visitors will have three players, Barry Horne, Jason Bowen and Andy Legg, away on international duty with Wales. A new date has yet to be arranged.

The World Cup qualifier between the former Balkan war enemies Bosnia and Croatia has been moved forward a day to 6 October. The Group One match, which will be played on the neutral ground of Herriot Hall Arena Stadium in Bologna, Italy, was brought forward to avoid clashing with a Group Two qualification between Italy and Georgia in Perugia.

August Stank, the former Austrian international, has been recalled to replace the disgraced Serbian Ljubo Petrovic as coach of the First Division club Casino Graz. Petrovic resigned last week after physically attacking one of his players in the dressing room.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Dallas Burn 1.

Man Utd to Shrewsbury: Eddie McLaughlin (Shrewsbury) to Man Utd; Ricky O'Connell (Shrewsbury) to Man Utd; Martin Taylor (Shrewsbury) to Man Utd.

Golf

England's Robert Lee goes into the final round of the Eilat Open Golf in Bilbao, Spain, today one shot behind the leader as he chases his second European Challenge Tour win of the season. Lee, from London, scored a third round of 71 for a five under par 211.

total, the same as Jose Solis, a 23-year-old cousin of the Ryder Cup captain, Seamus O'Sullivan. They are one behind the leader, Stephen Scott, of Australia. SC OPEN (Eilat, Spain) 18 holes (stroke play): Lee (ENG) 71-68-70-71=280; Scott (AUS) 70-68-70-71=279; Solis (ESP) 71-68-70-71=280; O'Sullivan (IRL) 72-69-71-72=284.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: Reading (1st), 1st; Arsenal (2nd), 2nd; Tottenham (3rd), 3rd; Manchester United (4th), 4th; Liverpool (5th), 5th; Chelsea (6th), 6th; Everton (7th), 7th; Aston Villa (8th), 8th; Birmingham City (9th), 9th; Newcastle (10th), 10th; Blackburn (11th), 11th; Derby County (12th), 12th; Nottingham Forest (13th), 13th; Sheffield Wednesday (14th), 14th; Sheffield United (15th), 15th; Ipswich Town (16th), 16th; Norwich City (17th), 17th; Southampton (18th), 18th; West Ham United (19th), 19th; Luton Town (20th), 20th; Millwall (21st), 21st; Charlton Athletic (22nd), 22nd; Barnsley (23rd), 23rd; Bury (24th), 24th; Rotherham United (25th), 25th; Doncaster Rovers (26th), 26th; Notts County (27th), 27th; Lincoln City (28th), 28th; Mansfield Town (29th), 29th; Grimsby Town (30th), 30th.

SQUASH: (Chesham) Reading (1st), 1st; Arsenal (2nd), 2nd; Tottenham (3rd), 3rd; Manchester United (4th), 4th; Liverpool (5th), 5th; Chelsea (6th), 6th; Everton (7th), 7th; Aston Villa (8th), 8th; Birmingham City (9th), 9th; Newcastle (10th), 10th; Blackburn (11th), 11th; Derby County (12th), 12th; Nottingham Forest (13th), 13th; Sheffield Wednesday (14th), 14th; Sheffield United (15th), 15th; Ipswich Town (16th), 16th; Norwich City (17th), 17th; Southampton (18th), 18th; West Ham United (19th), 19th; Luton Town (20th), 20th; Millwall (21st), 21st; Charlton Athletic (22nd), 22nd; Barnsley (23rd), 23rd; Bury (24th), 24th; Rotherham United (25th), 25th; Doncaster Rovers (26th), 26th; Notts County (27th), 27th; Lincoln City (28th), 28th; Mansfield Town (29th), 29th; Grimsby Town (30th), 30th.

TENNIS: Chris Wilkinson, the top seed, will face Sweden's Federico Riva, the draw's last remaining overseas player, in today's semi-final of the ITA Autumn Satellite tournament at the Wembley Centre of Sport. Wilkinson was best of 3-5 against Czech player Ota Fialka, 7-6, 6-1, in his quarter-final match. In the other semi-final, Hengstler's Nick Wood, who had a bye through yesterday's quarter-final when Avon's Nick Gould withdrew before their match with a stomach injury, meets Lincolnshire's Andrew Richardson.

DAVIS CUP World Group qualifying round (Wimbledon) Spain 1 Denmark 0; Costa Rica 1 Argentina 0; Canada 1 Australia 0; New Zealand 1 South Africa 0; Ireland 1 Netherlands 0; Belgium 1 Germany 0; France 1 Italy 0; Portugal 1 Greece 0; Turkey 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 1 Saudi Arabia 0; Yemen 1 Oman 0; Jordan 1 Lebanon 0; Syria 1 Iraq 0; Palestine 1 Israel 0; Cyprus 1 Armenia 0; Georgia 1 Azerbaijan 0; Kazakhstan 1 Uzbekistan 0; Kyrgyzstan 1 Tajikistan 0; Turkmenistan 1 Mongolia 0; China 1 Vietnam 0; Laos 1 Cambodia 0; Brunei 1 Philippines 0; East Timor 1 Thailand 0; Myanmar 1 Bangladesh 0; Sri Lanka 1 Nepal 0; Bhutan 1 Maldives 0; Oman 1 Kuwait 0; Qatar 1 United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 1 Saudi Arabia 0; Yemen 1 Oman 0; Jordan 1 Lebanon 0; Syria 1 Iraq 0; Palestine 1 Israel 0; Cyprus 1 Armenia 0; Georgia 1 Azerbaijan 0; Kazakhstan 1 Uzbekistan 0; Kyrgyzstan 1 Tajikistan 0; Turkmenistan 1 Mongolia 0; China 1 Vietnam 0; Laos 1 Cambodia 0; Brunei 1 Philippines 0; East Timor 1 Thailand 0; Myanmar 1 Bangladesh 0; Sri Lanka 1 Nepal 0; Bhutan 1 Maldives 0; Oman 1 Kuwait 0; Qatar 1 United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor 0; Thailand 1 Myanmar 0; Bangladesh 1 Sri Lanka 0; Nepal 1 Bhutan 0; Maldives 1 Oman 0; Kuwait 1 Qatar 0; United Arab Emirates 0; Saudi Arabia 1 Yemen 0; Oman 1 Jordan 0; Lebanon 1 Syria 0; Iraq 1 Palestine 0; Israel 1 Cyprus 0; Armenia 1 Georgia 0; Azerbaijan 1 Kazakhstan 0; Uzbekistan 1 Kyrgyzstan 0; Tajikistan 1 Turkmenistan 0; Mongolia 1 China 0; Vietnam 1 Laos 0; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0; Philippines 1 East Timor

Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert

The big picture

The Abyss
Sun 9pm C4

Director James Cameron is a master of mega-budget special effects movies; look at *The Terminator* and *Aliens*. With *The Abyss*, he took on a new challenge: creating spectacular special effects underwater (a feat he hopes to repeat with a film version of the sinking of the *Titanic*). He largely succeeds in this eye-catching, if occasionally silly, tale of a rescue team, headed by rugged Ed Harris, investigating an incapacitated military submarine. Not for nothing did the special effects walk away with an Oscar.

What a godsend the Harold Wilson/Idi Amin revelation has been to *How to Be Prime Minister* (Sun BBC2). Michael Cockerell's guide to the top job, which might otherwise have been buried beneath quite a strong weekend of television. Joe Haines's disclosure that Wilson wanted Amin assassinated made most newspapers' front pages in mid-week, and third item down on Wednesday's BBC *Nine O'Clock News*. You can't buy pre-publicity like that. The rest holds little that is relevant. Cockerell knows his parliamentary onions and has good access – but don't we all know that PMs are lonely in office, get little sleep and fall in love with the Queen (except Margaret Thatcher, of course)? Still, this is a jolly enough affair and contains nice little insider observations – such as how to "tuck" (hang round the PM in the hope of getting a quick word) and the existence of "old stripes", the blue and yellow dispatch box containing the juiciest security information. Jim Callaghan was in power when the BBC first transmitted *The Rise and Fall of Reginald Perrin*, a series which saw the full flowering of Leonard

Rosseter's anarchic comic genius. Today's middle classes would probably give their collective right arms for the sort of routine, stress-free, job-for-life (with the little woman back home) culture against which Reggie Perrin rebelled. In hindsight, he can be seen as a proto-Thatcherite – riding roughshod over "society" and stifled British business practices. The *Legacy of Reginald Perrin* (Sun BBC1), re-uniting most of the original cast, is not so much a comedy as a collection of catchphrases – a liturgy for the sort of people who will be buying the accompanying BBC book. So we get CJ saying "I didn't get where I am today by doing whatever, whatever ...". David Harris-Jones's "super ... sorry", Geoffrey Palmer's Jimmy and his "cock-up on the catering front", and so on. Without Rosseter to bounce off, there's precious little reason for this 'trot – except, of course, that writer David Nobbs has found one, and has them gathered for the reading of Reggie's will. There are two very good documentaries this weekend. Richard Gordon and Carma Hinton's *Fine Cut* film *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (Sat BBC2) looks

at the birth and early strangulation of the democracy movement in China. Documenting the build-up to events in Tiananmen Square in 1989, they give a startling picture of the haphazard, opportunistic nature of revolution. *The Promised Land* (Sun BBC2) tells of the biggest peace-time exodus of Americans ever – the movement of 5 million African Americans from the Deep South to the industrial cities of the north between 1940 and 1970. The first film, *Any Place But Here*, paints a distressing picture of the mixture of feudalism and apartheid (called "Jim Crow") that existed in Mississippi in the Twenties and Thirties. *Erotic Tales* (Sun C4) is a new series of six dramas trying to walk that fine line between pornography and erotica – if indeed one accepts such differentials. The series starts with Susan Seidelman's Oscar-nominated *The Dutch Master*, about a New York dental hygienist (the sweetly appealing Mira Sorvino – such subjective judgements are necessary in this field) who develops a strange fascination with an old Dutch painting and the David Goliath lookalike at the centre of the canvas. Hey, it worked for me.

The big race

Portuguese Grand Prix
Sun 1.30pm, 9.50pm BBC2

Damon Hill (above) won't thank us for saying this, but since his split from Williams was announced, interest in the Formula One world championship has really revived. It has added spice to an already tense conclusion as Hill seeks to clinch the drivers' title for the first time. In this penultimate race of the season in Estoril, Hill needs to finish ahead of his Williams team-mate Jacques Villeneuve to bag the title. He could also win it if the Canadian fails to gain a top three finish. Exciting stuff.

Saturday television and radio

BBC1

- 7.00 Bay City (R) (S) (7928860).
- 7.25 News: Weather (2919150).
- 7.30 children's BBC: The World Files. 7.40 Robinson. 8.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest.
- 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman. An old one, actually – the one where Lois has to respond to Clark's marriage proposal (R) (S) (3773792).
- 9.15 Live and Kicking. (New Series) The electronic childminder returns with new presenters Zoe Ball and Jamie Theakston. This week's special guests are Boyzone (S) (81825792).
- 12.12 Weather (7938112).
- 12.15 Grandstand. 12.20 Football Focus. 12.55 News. 1.00 Motor Racing: live coverage of the qualifying session for tomorrow's Portuguese Grand Prix from Estoril. 2.05 Racing from Newbury: the 2.10 Arlington Conditions Stakes. 2.15 Cricket Focus. 2.35 Racing from Newbury: the 2.40 Courage Handicap Stakes. 2.50 International Golf: third-round coverage from the inaugural Loch Lomond World Invitational. 3.05 Racing from Newbury: the 3.10 Tote Autumn Cup. 3.20 Golf. 3.35 Racing from Newbury: the 3.40 Bonaparte Mill Reef Stakes. 3.45 Football Half-Time. 3.55 Golf. 4.45 Final Score (S) (77624570).
- 5.20 News: Weather (3214808).
- 5.30 Regional News and Weather (557150).
- 5.35 Day's News (7655181).
- 6.05 Jim Davidson's Generation Game (S) (813044).
- 7.05 Due South. An assassin is threatening the lives of ministers at the North American Trade Summit (S) (589995).
- 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Phil Collins performs his new single and gets the balls going (S) (164044).
- 8.05 Casualty. During a re-enactment of a Viking battle two neighbours come to real blows (S) (155959).
- 8.55 News and Sport: Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (920957).
- 9.15 *Mercy Mission* – the rescue of Flight 777. (Roger Young 1993 US). Bog-standard plane-pilot thriller with Scott Bakula (from *Quantum Leap*) at the controls (862941).
- 10.45 Match of the Day. Liverpool v Chelsea at Anfield is the main event (S) (8956150).
- 11.55 They Think It's All Over. Last Thursday's edition. Jimmy Fivelables and comedian Alistair McGowan were the guests (S) (163599).
- 12.25 Top of the Pops. With record companies allegedly complaining about Top of the Pops's switch from Thursdays to Fridays, is this late-night repeat part of a BBC emotive response? Anyway, the Bluesettes, Phil Collins, Deep Blue Something and Belinda Carlisle feature (R) (1508551).
- 1.00 *Asylum* (Roy Ward Baker 1972 UK). Superior chiller (from a script by *Psycho* author Robert Bloch) in which four inmates in an insane asylum tell their stories. Starring Robert Powell, Peter Cushing, Herbert Lom, Patrick Magee, Sylvia Syms, Britt Ekland (6273377).
- 2.25 Weather (5234483). To 3.00am.

BBC2

- 6.00 Open University: The Management of Project Omnia (2093889). 6.25 The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra (2005624). 6.50 Environment (7845947). 7.15 Open Advice (7949353). 7.40 Quantum Leap into the Atom (7925792). 8.05 The Melbury Road Set (1055632). 8.30 Wrapping Up the Themes (5910624). 9.20 The Sordid Subject of Bosuf Bourguignon (8100745). 9.45 Lessons from Kerala (4949650). 10.10 A Little Film About Thevae (3353976). 10.35 Energy Through the Window (1477841). 11.00 Overture: Plus Ça Change (5234266). 11.25 Norfolk Broads. Conservation v Commercialism (2412269). 11.50 Seeing with Electronics (5150228).
- 12.15 Film 96 with Barry Norman (S) (448605).
- 12.45 *Suspicion* (Alfred Hitchcock 1941 US). Heiress Joan Fontaine marries ruthless fortune-hunter Cary Grant, but increasingly comes to suspect him of plotting to murder her. The first of two early-period American Hitchcock movies this afternoon is his flawed but well-cast thriller co-starring Cedric Hardwicke, Nigel Bruce and a highly unconvincing studio England (41536808).
- 2.20 *Foreign Correspondent* (Alfred Hitchcock 1940 US). The second Hitchcock movie of the afternoon is generally superior – a cracking spy thriller set on the eve of the Second World War (and exhorting Americans to wake up to the Nazi menace). Bags of classic scenes – including the Dutch windmill going against the wind. Joel McCrea is the jaunty US reporter hero – little Laraine Day the romantic interest (784650).
- 4.15 *TOTP2*. This week's show celebrates the 1,700th edition of *Top of the Pops* by playing the Number One hits from landmark shows (S) (164841).
- 5.00 Rhodes 1/8. Second sitting for the opening episode of this epic debunking of the great empire-builder. Martin Shaw plays Rhodes the elder, while his son, Joe Shaw, plays the young Cecil (S) (81792).
- 6.30 *Leeds International Piano Competition* (With Radio 3) Last night, the first three finalists each played a piano concerto tonight, the remaining three perform with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The winner is decided by an international jury (Subsequent programmes may run late) (387354).
- 9.00 Fine Cut: See Preview (S) (49275131).
- 11.05 Leeds International Piano Competition. The jury announces the official result and Howard Goodall reveals the viewers' choice (S) (856537).
- 11.25 *Top of the Pops Weekend*. To celebrate Childline's 10th anniversary, a special concert from Wembley Arena featuring Sleeper, Kula Shaker, Terrorvision, Cast, Ocean Colour Scene and Bjork (730421).
- 12.25 *International Golf Highlights* of the second day's play in the Solheim Cup from St Pierre, Chesport (Followed by Weather) (8203648). To 1.20am.
- REGIONS. Wales. 2.20pm Plaid Cymru Conference. Nil No Variations.

ITV/London

- 6.00 GMTV 6.00 Mole in the Hole. 6.20 Professor Bubbie. 6.40 Bug Alert! 7.00 News. 7.10 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles. 8.55 Masked Rider (988871).
- 9.25 Wow. The live show for Saturdays with Simon Court and Sophie Aldred. Sally Gurnell and the cast of *Hollyoaks* are the guests (S) (16036155).
- 11.00 The Noise. And Peters introduces the music magazine, including a chat with Sting and Superman actor Dean Cain (S) (4421).
- 11.30 The Chart Show (S) (10063).
- 12.30 Move On Up (58570).
- 1.05 News & Weather (7624131).
- 1.05 Local News: Weather (76255402).
- 1.10 Champions League Special. Jim Rosenthal previews this week's games, including Manchester United's encounter with Rapid Vienna (3207565).
- 1.45 Movies. Games and Videos (430686).
- 2.15 Baywatch. Summer and Stephanie are taken hostage in a life-guard tower by an escaped psychopath. You've got to cheer (R) (7469841).
- 3.05 Airwolf. The little helicopter is sent to help free the victims of a kidnapping (R) (5091421).
- 3.55 Thunder in Paradise (S) (6847334).
- 4.45 News: Sports Results: Weather (7844599).
- 5.05 London Tonight: Sports Results (Followed by LWT Weather) (85912).
- 5.25 Cartoon Time (3208247).
- 5.35 RoboCop (S) (762711).
- 6.30 Body Heat. The grand final from South Africa. The three couples who have won through face a 2km uphill road race, before linking up with the South African Navy in a marine attack exercise and undergoing a power test set by the manager of the champion South African rugby team. Enough, surely, to satisfy armchair sadists (S) (312150).
- 7.15 The Big, Big Talent Show (Including Lottery Result) (S) (775842).
- 8.15 Family Fortunes (S) (989537).
- 8.45 News: Weather: Lottery Result (Followed by LWT Weather) (935889).
- 9.00 A Right Royal Show and Dance. Clips from 40 years of the Royal Variety Show (S) (9228).
- 10.00 The Big, Big Talent Show: Results. Jonathan Ross announces the winner of tonight's final (995204).
- 10.15 *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* (George Miller, George Ogilvie 1985 US). More post-apocalyptic mayhem with Mel Gibson. The series was getting a bit above itself by the time Tina Turner joined for this, the second sequel (206421).
- 12.15 Funny Business (S) (59087).
- 12.45 *BL Stryker – Grand Theft Hotel* (Tony Warburton 1990 US). Starring Burt Reynolds, Lori Anderson and Rita Moreno (S) (145648).
- 2.25 The Chart Show (R) (S) (9078209).
- 3.15 E! News Review (6530174).
- 4.05 Night Shift (7920071).
- 4.10 *God's Gift* (R) (6589261).
- 5.05 Coach (R) (S) (956022).
- 5.30 News (55667). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

- 6.00 Sesame Street (R) (3359518).
- 6.55 The Magic School Bus (R) (S) (4385228).
- 7.30 Dennis (7713082).
- 7.45 First Edition (7718537).
- 8.00 Transworld Sport (67112).
- 9.00 The Morning Line. Today's horse-racing preview (S) (92711).
- 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (79773).
- 11.00 Blitz! Including highlights of the Monday night game between Pittsburgh Steelers and Buffalo Bills (99537).
- 12.00 Rawhide (75247).
- 1.00 *Under the Skin* (Elliott Nugent 1944 US). Some of the songs bear up better than the story about a hypochondriac called up into the US Army during the Second World War. This was Danny Kaye's first movie vehicle, and it co-starred Dinah Shore and Dana Andrews (68816150).
- 2.55 Racing from Ayr and the Curragh. 3.05 (A) Ladbroke Silver Cup Handicap. 3.35 (A) Stakis Casino Doonish Cup. 3.50 (C) Jefferson Smurfit Memorial Irish St Leger. 4.15 (A) Ladbroke Gold Cup Handicap. 4.25 (C) Aga Khan's Studs National Stakes. 4.45 (A) Johnnie Walker Whisky Handicap (S) (29861599).
- 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (R) (S) (4393044).
- 6.30 Right to Reply (S) (315).
- 7.00 News Summary and Weather (828570).
- 7.05 The People's Parliament. Today's motion is "Parents are responsible for their children's behaviour at school and should be fined if they persistently disrupt classes" (S) (121995).
- 8.00 Carlo Scarpa. Profile of the Italian post-war architect whose work uniquely juxtaposed the ancient with the modern (6514).
- 9.00 E.R. Lewis is formally charged with negligence (R) (S) (275082).
- 9.55 Father Ted. Ted decides that he and Dougal will "borrow" a tune from an old Eurosong hopeful and enter it as their own (R) (S) (547345).
- 10.25 NYFD Blue. The jury reaches a verdict in the Liscia case (S) (95537).
- 11.25 Dyle TV: The A to Z of Dating. Julie Hesmondhalgh takes us on a fast-paced journey through the world of lesbian classified ads (S) (850353).
- 11.50 Mad About the Boy. A range of lesbians reveal which men inspire them and why (S) (230860).
- 12.05 A Weekend at Miss Martindale's (S) (6599280).
- 12.40 *Bar Girls* (Marita Giovanni 1994 US). Comedy in which a TV cartoon writer (Nancy Allison Wolfe) and her lesbian barfy buddies enjoy a roller-coaster ride of romance, lust and miscommunication (S) (884025).
- 2.30 Techno Babes. The lesbian club scene. Followed by Dyle Blend. (7492006).
- 2.45 *Mad About the Boy* (George Fitzmaurice 1931 US). With George Garbo, Lionel Barrymore and Ramon Novarro (126280). To 4.20am.

ITV/Regions

- As London except 12.30pm Champions of the Future Classics (7918689). 1.25 Champions League (6892773). 1.40 Film: The Dam Cell (6206895). 3.50 Airwolf (6011179). 5.10 Channel 3 North East Full Time (769334). Works: Scrooge (769334). 5.20 Cartoon (769570). 5.35 secQuest 2032 (762711). 12.15 Film: Nine Deaths of the Ninja (543003). 1.55am Canal Knowledge (6909193). 2.40 Film: St. Martin's Lane (694762). 4.10am Hater Stalker (2433613). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (73759).
- As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (58570). 1.40 Film: The Dam Cell (6206895). 3.50 Airwolf (6011179). 5.10 Channel 3 North East Full Time (769334). Works: Scrooge (769334). 5.20 Cartoon (769570). 5.35 secQuest 2032 (762711). 12.15 Film: Nine Deaths of the Ninja (543003). 1.55am Canal Knowledge (6909193). 2.40 Film: St. Martin's Lane (694762). 4.10am Hater Stalker (2433613). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (73759).
- As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (58570). 1.40 Film: The Dam Cell (6206895). 3.50 Airwolf (6011179). 5.10 Channel 3 North East Full Time (769334). Works: Scrooge (769334). 5.20 Cartoon (769570). 5.35 secQuest 2032 (762711). 12.15 Film: Nine Deaths of the Ninja (543003). 1.55am Canal Knowledge (6909193). 2.40 Film: St. Martin's Lane (694762). 4.10am Hater Stalker (2433613). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (73759).
- As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (58570). 1.40 Film: The Dam Cell (6206895). 3.50 Airwolf (6011179). 5.10 Channel 3 North East Full Time (769334). Works: Scrooge (769334). 5.20 Cartoon (769570). 5.35 secQuest 2032 (762711). 12.15 Film: Nine Deaths of the Ninja (543003). 1.55am Canal Knowledge (6909193). 2.40 Film: St. Martin's Lane (694762). 4.10am Hater Stalker (2433613). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (73759).

Radio

- Radio 1**
(91.5-98.0MHz FM)
7.00am Charlie Jordan 10.00 Dave Pearce 12.30 Danny Baker 2.30 Jo Whiley 5.00 PJ Harvey at Peel Acres See Choice, right
7.00 Lovegrove Dance Party with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Night 2.00 Essential Mix Pete Tong in the Mix 6.00-7.00am Claire Burgess
- Radio 2**
(89.9-104.9MHz FM)
6.00am Bob Dutt 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday 1.00 Talking Comedy 1.30 News Huddlines 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Who's Who? 6.00 Jamie Ian in Concert 7.00 Vaudeville Red Hot and Blue 7.30 John Williams Conducts the LSO 9.30 David Jacobs 12.05 Charles Novak 4.00-6.00am Bob Dutt
- Radio 3**
(93.7-100.7MHz FM)
7.00am Record Review 9.00 Building a Library. Richard Osborne compiles available recordings of Strauss' Don Quixote.
10.15 Record Release. Hesse: Salve regin. Bach: Cantata No 105: Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit. Cieramabiz: Le soleil, vainqueur des nuages.
11.15 Releases. David Huxtable considers recent releases of Hermann's World by North-West and Miklos Rozsa's Ben Hur.
12.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to writer and broadcaster Nigel Rees.
1.00 News: Simon Radcliffe. Home and Away. The Early Years. Michael Birtwell profiles conductor Simon Rattle.
3.00 The Department Score. Birmingham v Cardiff.
3.30 Youth Orchestras of the World. David McGuinness presents a programme from the 1995 Aberdeen International Youth Festival.
5.00 Jazz Record Requests. With Geoffrey Smith.
5.45 Music Matters.
6.30 Leeds International Piano Competition. Part 2. Howard Goodall introduces performances by the last three finalists at Leeds Town Hall.
9.00 Best Words. Michael Rosen

Choice

PJ Harvey at Peel Acres (Spm R1) finds John Peel entertaining Polly Jean, the pop tragedienne (left), and her band at Peel's country residence in Suffolk, where they engage in some desultory chat about rural life and she sings some of her arty, walling songs. Really quite odd.


legendary director at Twickenham Studios in the 30s and the man who taught David Lloyd how to direct. 11.45 Who Goes Home. Riding the Rollercoaster. Roy Hattersley offers a vivid first-hand account of the last Labour government.

Radio 5
(93.7-100.7MHz FM)
6.00am Dirty Yackie 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weekend with Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 If I Ruled the World 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 Sportsday 1.05 Sport on Five 6.00 Six 8.05 The Treatment 9.05 Daily UK 10.05 Brief Lives 10.35 World Up 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Night Extra 12.15 All Night News 6.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classical FM
(93.7-100.7MHz FM)
6.00am Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Countdown. 12.00 Classic Gardeners Forum. 1.00 Alan Mann. 3.00 Nick Bailey. 7.00 Music of the Americas. 8.00 Saturday Evening Concert. Berkeley/Gibson. Monty Juic Suite of Catalan Dances. Holst: A Fugal Concerto; Choral Fantasia; Concerto for two Violins and Small Orchestra. Vaughan Williams: A London Symphony. 10.00 The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Andre Leon. 4.00 Travel Guide. 5.00-6.00am Michael Farstone.

Satellite

- SAT 1**
7.00am Under (3964625). 12.00 World (27711). 1.00 The Box (215011). 2.00 Hercules (19222). 3.00 The Young Indiana Jones (8421). 6.00 WWF (25953). 7.00 Hercules (86964). 8.00 Under (3964625). 9.00 Cops (14695). 9.30 Cops (98112). 10.00 Stand and Deliver (82063). 10.30 Revelations (67112). 11.00 Movie (65461). 12.00 The 13th Floor (1959). 12.30 Dream On (41590). 1.00 Comedy Rules (54648). 1.30 Rachel Gunn, RN (94754). 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix (33629).
- SAT 2**
7.00am Earth 2 (4090711). 8.00 Jay (4076131). 9.00 Kidz: The Embroidered (43659). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (608535). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (608435). 11.00 The Hit Mix (748202). 12.00-6.00am Hit Mix (33629).
- SAT 3**
6.15am To Trap a Spy (1956). 6.30am The 13th Floor (1959). 6.50am The Green Hat (1966). 8.30am 10.00 Kaleidoscope (1966) (7292). 12.00 Mountain Family Robinson (1979). (8207). 2.00 Designworld (1993). (59247). 4.00 Free Willy (1993). (3353). 6.00 Josh and S.A.M. (1993). (62711). 8.00 Blue Sky (1994). (41228). 10.00 Gun (1994). (296792). 11.35 Night Eyes (31993). (785421). 1.20 The Vagant (1992). (6214464). 2.50 Separated by Murder (1984). (263782). 4.25-6.00am Dragonworld (1993). (810434).
- MOVIE CHANNEL**
6.00am Lillian Russell (1940). (4165880). 8.10 Monty Python (1966). (29555179). 10.00 Oliver Twist (1987). (10334). 12.00 Say One for Me (1999). (82699). 2.00 To See Such Fun (1977). (57889). 4.00 Teleview (1993). (1993). 6.00 Official Denial (1993). (63033). 8.00 Without Warning (1994). (32570). 10.00 The River Wild (1994). (128792). 11.55 Heaven & Earth (1993). (9572934). 2.15 The River (1971). (91483). 1.56 1977 To See Such Fun (1977). (713551).
- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
12.00am Country Girl (1954). (92291). 2.00 The Party (1968). (28313). 4.00 Seven Days in May (1964). (9227). 6.00 The Badly Shown (1984). (48179). 8.00 No Way Out (1987). (43624). 10.00 Casualties of War (1989). (19022). 12.00 10 Rilling. (1993). (9572934). 2.15 The River (1971). (91483). 1.56 1977 To See Such Fun (1977). (713551).
- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
12.00am Country Girl (1954). (92291). 2.00 The Party (1968). (28313). 4.00 Seven Days in May (1964). (9227). 6.00 The Badly Shown (1984). (48179). 8.00 No Way Out (1987). (43624). 10.00 Casualties of War (1989). (19022). 12.00 10 Rilling. (1993). (9572934). 2.15 The River (1971). (91483). 1.56 1977 To See Such Fun (1977). (713551).
- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
12.00am Country Girl (1954). (92291). 2.00 The Party (1968). (28313). 4.00 Seven Days in May (1964). (9227). 6.00 The Badly Shown (1984). (48179). 8.00 No Way Out (1987). (43624). 10.00 Casualties of War (1989). (19022). 12.00 10 Rilling. (1993). (9572934). 2.15 The River (1971). (91483). 1.56 1977 To See Such Fun (1977). (713551).



FRENCH OR GERMAN

Do you want to improve your French or German - for career, pleasure or both?

DIPLOMA IN FRENCH OR GERMAN

The Open University's Centre for Modern Languages offers courses to help you enhance your knowledge of the language and culture of France or Germany leading to the award of a diploma. All you need is a basic knowledge of the language you want to study.

OU SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING

Our proven method of learning allows you to study wherever you live and in your own time. You will be using specially written course books, study guides and audio visual materials, backed up by personal tutorial and counselling support.

STUDY PACKS

The courses are also available as packs, enabling you to study on your own without registering as a student. Please complete the coupon or ring the OU hotline today for a brochure giving complete course details.

Complete and send this coupon to: **CML9**
The Open University, PO Box 625 Milton Keynes MK1 1TY.
Please send me details of your (please tick):
☐ French language courses
☐ Study Packs
Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
To save time call the hotline **01908 373077**
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

ملا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل



2002
Le Mans
24 Hours

Regions

Open
University

CH
WAY

to the A4 touring car campaign.

Audi A4 quattro won the Driver, Team and Manufacturer trophies.

Audi
Vorsprung durch Technik



the saturday story

By Giovanni Boccaccio

Priests and bishops succumbing to temptations of the flesh is surprising only in that we are still surprised. This tale from *The Decameron* dates from the 14th century



Of holy men and earthly desire

There once lived in the town of Gafsa, in Barbary, a very rich man who had numerous children, among them a lovely and graceful young daughter called Alibech. She was not herself a Christian, but there were many Christians in the town, and one day, having on occasion heard them extol the Christian faith and the service of God, she asked one of them for his opinion on the best and easiest way for a person to "serve God", as they put it. He answered her by saying that the ones who put the greatest distance between themselves and earthly goods, as happened in the case of people who had gone to live in the remotest parts of the Sahara.

She said no more about it to anyone, but next morning, being a very simple-natured creature of 14 or thereabouts, Alibech set out all alone, in secret, and made her way toward the desert. A few days later, exhausted from fatigue and hunger, she arrived in the heart of the wilderness, where, catching sight of a small hut in the distance, she stumbled towards it, and in

the doorway she found a holy man, who was astonished to see her in those parts and asked her what she was doing there.

She told him that she had been inspired by God, and that she was trying not only to serve Him but also to find someone who could teach her how she should go about it.

On observing how young and exceedingly pretty she was, the good man was afraid to take her under his wing lest the devil should catch him unawares. So he praised her for her good intentions, and having given her a quantity of herb roots, wild apples and dates to eat, and some water to drink, he said to her:

"My daughter, not very far from here is a holy man who is much more capable than I of teaching you what you want to know." And he sent her upon her way.

When she came to this second man, she was told precisely the same thing, and so she went on until she arrived at the cell of a young hermit, a very devout and kindly fellow called Rustico, to whom she put the same inquiry. Being anxious to prove to himself that he possessed a

will of iron, he did not, like the others, send her away or direct her elsewhere, but kept her with him in his cell, in a corner of which, when night descended, he prepared a makeshift bed out of palm-leaves, upon which he invited her to lie down and rest.

Once he had taken this step, very little time elapsed before temptations went to war against his willpower, and after the first few assaults, finding himself outmanoeuvred on all fronts, he laid down his arms and surrendered. Casting aside pious thoughts, prayers, and penitential exercises, he began to concentrate his mental faculties upon the youth and beauty of the girl, and to devise suitable ways and means for approaching her in such a fashion that she should not think it lewd of him to make the sort of proposal he had in mind. He thought of a possible way to persuade her, with the pretext of serving God, to grant his desires. He began by delivering a long speech in which he showed her how powerful an enemy the devil was to the Lord God, and followed this up by impressing upon her that of all the ways of serving God, the one that He most appreci-

ated consisted of putting the devil back in hell.

The girl asked him how this was done, and Rustico replied: "You will soon find out, but just do whatever you see me doing for the present." And so saying, he began to divest himself of the few clothes he was wearing, leaving himself completely naked. The girl followed his example, and he sank to his knees as though he were about to pray, getting her to kneel directly opposite.

In this posture, the girl's beauty was displayed to Rustico in all its glory, and his longings blazed more fiercely than ever, bringing about the resurrection of the flesh. Alibech stared at this in amazement, and said: "Rustico, what is that thing I see sticking out in front of you, which I do not possess?"

"Oh, my daughter," said Rustico, "this is the devil I was telling you about. Do you see what he's doing? He's hurting me so much that I can hardly endure it."

"Oh, praise be to God," said the girl. "I can see that I am better off than you are, for I have no such devil to contend with."

"You're right there," said Rustico, "but you have something else instead that I haven't."

"Oh?" said Alibech. "And what's that?"

"You have hell," said Rustico. "And I honestly believe that God has sent you here for the salvation of my soul, because if this devil continues to plague the

life out of me, and if you are prepared to take sufficient pity upon me to let me put him back into hell, you will be giving me marvellous relief, as well as rendering incalculable service and pleasure to God."

"Oh, Father," replied the girl. "If I really do have a hell, let's do as you suggest just as soon as you are ready."

At this point, he conveyed the girl to one of their beds, where he instructed her in the art of incarcerating that accursed fiend. Never having put a single devil into hell before, the girl found the first experience a little painful, and she said to Rustico: "This devil must certainly be a bad lot, Father, and a true enemy of God, for as well as plaguing mankind, he even hurts hell when he's driven back inside it."

"Daughter," said Rustico, "it will not always be like that. And to ensure that it wouldn't, he put him back half a dozen times, curbing his arrogance to such good effect that he was positively glad to keep still for the rest of the day."

During the next few days, however, the devil's pride frequently reared its head again, and the girl, ever ready to obey the call to duty and bring him under control, happened to develop a taste for the sport, and began saying to Rustico: "I can certainly see what those worthy men in Gafsa meant when they said that serving God was so agreeable. I don't honestly recall ever having done anything that gave me so much pleasure and satisfaction as I get from putting

the devil back in hell. To my way of thinking, anyone who devotes his energies to anything but the service of God is a complete blockhead."

She thus developed the habit of going to Rustico at frequent intervals, and saying to him: "Father, I came here to serve God, not to idle away my time. Let's go and put the devil back in hell."

And sometimes, in the middle of their labours, she would say: "What puzzles me, Rustico, is that the devil should ever want to escape from hell. Because if he liked being there as much as hell enjoys receiving him and keeping him inside, he would never go away at all."

By inviting Rustico to play the game too often, continually urging him on in the service of God, the girl took so much stuffing out of him that he eventually began to turn cold where another man would have been bathed in sweat. So he told her that the devil should only be punished and put back in hell when he reared his head with pride, adding that by the grace of Heaven, they had tamed him so effectively that he was pleading with God to be left in peace. In this way, he managed to keep the girl at bay for a while, but one day, having begun to notice that Rustico was no longer asking for the devil to be put back, she said: "Look here, Rustico. Even though your devil has been punished and pesters you no longer, my hell simply refuses to leave me alone. Now that I have helped you with my hell to sub-

due the pride of your devil, the least you can do is to get your devil to help me tame the fury of my hell."

Rustico, who was living on a diet of herb roots and water, was quite incapable of supplying her requirement, and told her that the taming of her hell would require an awful lot of devils, but promised to do what he could. Sometimes, therefore, he responded to the call, but this happened so infrequently that it was rather like chucking a bean into the mouth of a lion, with the result that the girl, who felt that she was not serving God as diligently as she would have liked, was found complaining more often than not.

But at the height of this dispute between Alibech's hell and Rustico's devil, brought about by a surplus of desire on the one hand and a shortage of power on the other, a fire broke out in Gafsa, and Alibech's father was burnt to death in his own house along with all his children, so that Alibech inherited the whole of his property. Because of this, a young man called Neerbal who had spent the whole of his substance in sumptuous living, having heard that she was still alive, set out to look for her, and before the authorities were able to appropriate her late father's fortune on the grounds that there was no heir, he succeeded in tracing her whereabouts. To the great relief to Rustico, but against her own wishes, he took

her back to Gafsa and married her, thus inheriting a half-share in her father's large fortune.

Before Neerbal had slept with her, she was questioned by the women of Gafsa about how she had served God in the desert, and she replied that she had served Him by putting the devil back in hell, and that Neerbal had committed a terrible sin by stopping her from performing so worthy a service.

"How do you put the devil back in hell?" asked the women. Partly in words and partly through gestures, the girl showed them how it was done, whereupon the women laughed so much that they were laughing yet, and they said: "Don't let it worry you, my dear. People do the job every bit as well here in Gafsa, and Neerbal will give you plenty of help serving the Lord."

The story was repeated throughout the town, being passed from one woman to the next, and they coined a proverbial saying there to the effect that the most agreeable way of serving God was to put the devil back in hell. The dictum later crossed the sea to Italy, where it survives to this day.

And so, young ladies, if you stand in need of God's grace, see that you learn to put the devil back in hell, for it is greatly to His liking and pleasurable to the parties concerned, and a great deal of good can arise and flow in the process.

Extracted from *Ten Tales from the Decameron*, translated by GH McWilliam. Penguin Classics.

You can't always look the other way



neil gaiman

A new 6 part fantasy drama at 9.00pm on Thursdays. BBC2 from September 12th

LOOK AGAIN... Catch the video, book, CD & cassette ... OUT NOW! ... OUT NOW! ... OUT NOW! ...

BBC

I stopped going to the cinema some time ago because lighting up a bag was outlawed in most London venues. There are still one or two places you can light up, like the pictures at the Elephant and Castle in south London. However, having sat through *Reservoir Dogs* there a couple of years ago and suffered the blood-curdling cackles of three south London girls during the ear-removing scene, I decided not to risk it again. A survey on cinema complaints has found that it is mobile phones and chanting that worries people up the most, along with go scolding noises and people walking to their seats just as Demi Moore or whoever is about to get her kit off. Perhaps as we get more selfish we just have to admit that we can't all sit together in one place and get on with one another. Of course, encouragement to respect our fellow man is not helped by the fact that half the time we're watching a Hollywood film with some poor woman having her liver removed or men's stomachs exploding with a bit of help from a sawn-off.

Romanian coalminers are a scary bunch of people who seem prepared to kick

people's heads in at the drop of a hat. They turn up in Bucharest from time to time to sort out trouble and then disappear back to the mines until another violent intervention is required by their political leaders. However, things look as if they are getting somewhat confused for the miners, because their union leader, Miron Cozma, has decided to do away with his loyalty to the president, Ion Iliescu, and stand in the next election as an independent. One wonders whether he will call upon this mob to persuade the voters by saying it with baseball bats, or whether they will stay at home and actually do mining. Still, one also wonders what might have happened if we'd swapped them with our miners during the Thatcher union call.

Yet again this year I fleetingly considered doing the evening-class thing, if only to stop my brain rotting away on a diet of crap telly and pappy radio. I fancied a course called "Latin - Rusty O-level" (not the name of the lecturer, I don't think), as I used to enjoy Caesar's Gallic wars and all that mounting of the ramparts and sending

dispatches to Cicero. It seems though, that for most evening-class students mounting is more in their sights than learning. Single people are often told by agony aunts to go to evening classes, as if a constant supply of eligible partners await them. Well, I have never met anyone who encountered and wooed the love of their life at evening classes and I certainly can't see myself *amo, amas, amatum* with someone in Rusty O-level. True, there isn't much opportunity to meet people you might want to get your leg over at many other venues, but perhaps Marie Perle and the like should accept that evening academe is a pretty unlikely venue for love.

Stage diving seems to be a popular pastime in American politics. It is difficult to forget Nancy Reagan disappearing suddenly from view as she edged her way along the stage at some do. Now Bob Dole is at it as well, falling off the stage while he was shaking hands with some voters. He was pronounced reasonably all right by a doctor, but I don't suppose it is the image that he really wants to portray. Looks as if he might be on his last legs, the poor old duffer.

Readers of the grumpy papers are up in arms this week because they believe that "serious" journalism should not be devoting the

time that it has to the whole Oasis shenanigans. It was interesting to see these grown-ups handling what is a "youth" phenomenon and talking about them the way that your parents used to talk about bands on *Top of the Pops*. ("Looks like they need a good meal/wash/dentist etc.") The grown-ups want these boys to be bad, so they are very adequately fulfilling every expectation. Still, as yet none of them has cut himself up with glass on stage, murdered his girlfriend or died of a heroin overdose. Quite nice really, aren't they?

Jolly good luck to the old Bishop of Argyll, I say. At least he is sexually attracted to someone of the opposite sex over the age of 13. There are a lot of Catholics in comedy and many say that when they were children they had the most miserable times of their lives at the hands of sadistic, unfeeling, dare I suggest it sexually frustrated priests or nuns. The power of the church at suppressing sexual desire in the ranks is at an all time low, but perhaps, bit of forgiveness, which all was something Jesus big on, might be in order.

jo brand's week



I stopped going to the cinema some time ago because lighting up a bag was outlawed in most London venues. There are still one or two places you can light up, like the pictures at the Elephant and Castle in south London. However, having sat through *Reservoir Dogs* there a couple of years ago and suffered the blood-curdling cackles of three south London girls during the ear-removing scene, I decided not to risk it again. A survey on cinema complaints has found that it is mobile phones and chanting that worries people up the most, along with go scolding noises and people walking to their seats just as Demi Moore or whoever is about to get her kit off. Perhaps as we get more selfish we just have to admit that we can't all sit together in one place and get on with one another. Of course, encouragement to respect our fellow man is not helped by the fact that half the time we're watching a Hollywood film with some poor woman having her liver removed or men's stomachs exploding with a bit of help from a sawn-off.

Romanian coalminers are a scary bunch of people who seem prepared to kick

people's heads in at the drop of a hat. They turn up in Bucharest from time to time to sort out trouble and then disappear back to the mines until another violent intervention is required by their political leaders. However, things look as if they are getting somewhat confused for the miners, because their union leader, Miron Cozma, has decided to do away with his loyalty to the president, Ion Iliescu, and stand in the next election as an independent. One wonders whether he will call upon this mob to persuade the voters by saying it with baseball bats, or whether they will stay at home and actually do mining. Still, one also wonders what might have happened if we'd swapped them with our miners during the Thatcher union call.

Yet again this year I fleetingly considered doing the evening-class thing, if only to stop my brain rotting away on a diet of crap telly and pappy radio. I fancied a course called "Latin - Rusty O-level" (not the name of the lecturer, I don't think), as I used to enjoy Caesar's Gallic wars and all that mounting of the ramparts and sending

dispatches to Cicero. It seems though, that for most evening-class students mounting is more in their sights than learning. Single people are often told by agony aunts to go to evening classes, as if a constant supply of eligible partners await them. Well, I have never met anyone who encountered and wooed the love of their life at evening classes and I certainly can't see myself *amo, amas, amatum* with someone in Rusty O-level. True, there isn't much opportunity to meet people you might want to get your leg over at many other venues, but perhaps Marie Perle and the like should accept that evening academe is a pretty unlikely venue for love.

Stage diving seems to be a popular pastime in American politics. It is difficult to forget Nancy Reagan disappearing suddenly from view as she edged her way along the stage at some do. Now Bob Dole is at it as well, falling off the stage while he was shaking hands with some voters. He was pronounced reasonably all right by a doctor, but I don't suppose it is the image that he really wants to portray. Looks as if he might be on his last legs, the poor old duffer.

Readers of the grumpy papers are up in arms this week because they believe that "serious" journalism should not be devoting the

time that it has to the whole Oasis shenanigans. It was interesting to see these grown-ups handling what is a "youth" phenomenon and talking about them the way that your parents used to talk about bands on *Top of the Pops*. ("Looks like they need a good meal/wash/dentist etc.") The grown-ups want these boys to be bad, so they are very adequately fulfilling every expectation. Still, as yet none of them has cut himself up with glass on stage, murdered his girlfriend or died of a heroin overdose. Quite nice really, aren't they?

Jolly good luck to the old Bishop of Argyll, I say. At least he is sexually attracted to someone of the opposite sex over the age of 13. There are a lot of Catholics in comedy and many say that when they were children they had the most miserable times of their lives at the hands of sadistic, unfeeling, dare I suggest it sexually frustrated priests or nuns. The power of the church at suppressing sexual desire in the ranks is at an all time low, but perhaps, bit of forgiveness, which all was something Jesus big on, might be in order.

مكتبة من الأدب

Market values

How long may you stand in front of the baked beans barring access to others?

david aaronovitch

It was not Laurence Cottam's finest hour. With one blow, the 56-year-old man had knocked another chap - Joe Wilkinson - into the Mr Kipling cake display at Morrison's department store in Wakefield. On Tuesday, this act of violence cost him nearly a thousand quid in fines and compensation at Wakefield Magistrate's Court.

But why did he do it? How had Mr Wilkinson so offended him that it merited the expense of so much physical effort, money and, of course, reputation? What obscure rule had been broken, or insult rendered? Had Mrs Cottam been called the daughter of a mangy camel, perhaps? Or was there a Verona-style family feud between the houses of Cottam and Wilkinson?

It will not surprise regular visitors to our modern supermarkets that the answer to this riddle involves a shopping trolley and a revolving door - an almost unbeatable combination of resistible force and movable object. Laurence and his wife, Sylvia, were negotiating the doors with their own trolley, when Joe (who was behind them) misjudged his speed. Imagine Sylvia's little bark of pain, the hurt expression she turns on Wilkinson, her words of reproach - and her husband's feeling of protective anger. Joe apologises and goes on his way.

Laurence is not mollified by the expression of regret. In Wakefield, as in the mountains of Albania, honour apparently demands blood sacrifice, so he follows Joe and, at the first available opportunity, rams his own trolley into his adversary's ankles. Words follow, until, surrounded by the gaudy sweetness of the cake department, Laurence's fist flies (appropriately) into Joe's cakehole. We can only feel glad for Mr Wilkinson that the *dénouement* did not take place over the wet fish counter.

We need now to transcend the obvious. It is clear that Mr Cottam is a man involved in a losing battle with his own id, and that Sylvia would be well-advised to do the shopping on her own. It is also true that acts of macho stupidity can disfigure almost any activity at any place. But it does appear that there are special and growing problems in supermarkets, involving fights in check-out queues, trolley-barging and bottles of

wine broken. Western saloon style, over heads.

Reflecting upon this, and upon my own experiences in Safeways and Sainsburys, I am beginning to think that what we are witnessing is not the breakdown of civility, but a state of pre-civility. Consider. Vast areas of our public lives are regulated by a million unstated little rules, which we all come to understand governing matters to do with precedence and personal space.

They are not laws; they are not even bylaws. Once, women like Emily Post would write them down, but this is no longer done, and today we do not even pass them on verbally. So, built over time like the British Constitution, they are simply absorbed.

In a cinema, for example, you may talk through the commercials, and through the title music of the main picture, providing that there is no action taking place. You may place your empty ice-cream carton carefully under your chair, but not in the aisle. If you find your seat covered in the coats and accessories of the person next door, you will stand there until they remove them (usually apologetically) themselves.

But supermarkets are too new for us to have evolved such clear and well-understood rules. They are the new frontier, and in them we all become pioneers, bringing with us our own rough notions of justice. How long may you stand in front of the baked beans consulting your shopping list, but barring access to others? If your unattended trolley is blocking egress, can it be moved by someone else? If so, how far can it be moved without violating rules of ownership? Is priority given to those emerging from aisles, or to those in the corridors at either end? Only at the deli counter is order codified, and even then, we do not know whether the needs of those wishing to examine what lies under the glass take precedence over those waiting to be served.

It follows, therefore, that it is still almost impossible to calibrate the social seriousness of having your wife's shins attacked by a strange trolley, let alone the necessary admonitory response. So Mr Cottam's jab in the kisser is not to be seen simply as an act of violence, but should also be interpreted as a plea for guidance.

Are you about to fall in love with this woman?

by Jack O'Sullivan



Bill Clinton and other real-shaped Americans have already fallen for Donna Karan's simple, sensual clothes. Now the New York New Ager is coming to Britain

transported from Madison Avenue, a palace devoted to cossetting women - and men - in a mean city. September rain may have lashed summer tans this week, thunder disturbed the calm in Tuscan villas, but Donna's refuge for the rich is there to massage the spirit with finely-cut cashmere.

The message of her imminent arrival had been borne by friends in the preceding weeks. Demi Moore and her husband, Bruce Willis, have been wearing her clothes all over the pages of the glossies since August, looking sexy, sensual and elegant, a little dishevelled, even slightly shaggy out, as if they have just slipped out of a luxurious bed in which sleeping was a secondary consideration. You can sense the eroticism, the intimacy of a couple, who may be film stars, but who are also real people: Demi and Bruce are genuine husband and wife. Demi's looking tired and sometimes vulnerable. She's got a bit of a tummy. But the clothes still look fabulous.

This is the type of intimate, emotional advertising Donna Karan is using to draw Britons into her world. She is already the best girlfriend of many American women, the designer who gave them "the body", an all-in-one undergarment with popper buttons on the crotch, the perfect canvas for her simply-cut jackets and dresses, of soft pliable materials that melt around the individual. Her hosiery is a marvel of engineering, smoothing, supporting and sheering in all the right places.

Her clothes speak to the aspiration of the modern, female professional who has matured since the power-dressing Eighties and now needs a subtler, more understated expression of status. She doesn't have to dress like a man. Nor does she have to be a sexual star, sparkling among the males in a short skirt. She needs to be comfortable. Lightly dressed in clothes that will look good in the office, and still pass muster at a dinner party. Most important, Karan's

personal life strikes a chord with those scaling fresh pinnacles in gender politics. Her father was a tailor and, although she grew up in a well-off Queens suburb, she is a self-made woman, who learned the art of salesmanship working in a shop at 14. Now, at 47, Donna Karan is mistress of a business empire that is valued at \$275m, though founded barely more than a decade ago.

She has had to juggle family and career. Married at 19, she had her first child at 25, days before her boss and mentor Anne Klein died of cancer, leaving her as heir apparent to the fashion house. Karan nearly gave herself a nervous breakdown, but produced a fresh collection in six weeks and then moved on to creating her own fashion house.

Her first marriage did not survive her success: she is now married to Stephan Weiss, a sculptor who has been a key figure in the business and who recently recovered from lung cancer. He calms her, she says, keeps her exuberance down. A

good Jewish mother. Karan remains plagued by guilt over not spending more time with her daughter, Gabby, who is now 22 and involved in the business. She speaks of herself as the dutiful mother of the company, and of her employees as her children. She'll be playing Earth Mother again at a huge splash party next Thursday during London Fashion Week, aimed at raising donations for cancer research.

It has captured the British imagination. Furniture and a host of lucrative lifestyle spin-offs could come next. The big test now is whether British women will follow their American sisters and fall in love with Donna. Do we want to be Demi and Bruce?

These days, Donna Karan has all the accoutrements of the successful New Yorker - an all-white beach house in the Hamptons, a seven-room Manhattan apartment, friendship with Barbra Streisand. She's a New Ager and has spoken, to the concern of the stock market, about her reincarnation and seven past lives, including one as a painter for the Medici.

But success has not apparently turned her into a shiny, brittle product. Ise Crawford recalls a visit to her beach house. "When we got there for the shoot, I had remembered everything except some knickers. There I was in the middle of Long Island and nowhere to get knickers. She instantly rifled through her drawers and came out with a pair of hers, washed, but they had been used. I thought, 'cricket, this is the sort of thing an old friend does'."

Fashion history will almost certainly judge Donna Karan as the executive woman's champion, who gave the new woman clothes in which she could feel easy anywhere. But that would neglect her triumphant entry into men's wear. She is responsible for some of the best-selling men's suits in America, all designed in simple style, with her husband Stephan in mind. There is, as with all Karan's best work only one problem. Expect to pay £2,000 for her finest suits, for men or women, at the new elite store. The rest of us, at a pinch, are more likely to be able to afford the £500-600 a suit at her more downmarket DKNY outlets. Or if that's too much, there are always knee-highs for £6.50.

Karan is reaching for fresh accolades. She is, like Ralph Lauren, demonstrating how open Britain and Europe is to mass fashion export from America. She brings New York to London in her advertising - yellow cabs, glamour, glitz, the harshness of a city perched on the eastern seaboard, prey to the wind and ice of winter, the overbearing humidity of summer. For the past two years, DKNY, her in-your-face, hip store, located down the road from her new emporium, has been selling sports-wear, jeans, kids' clothes and some of her cheaper collection lines.

It has captured the British imagination. Furniture and a host of lucrative lifestyle spin-offs could come next. The big test now is whether British women will follow their American sisters and fall in love with Donna. Do we want to be Demi and Bruce?

The sleepy Welsh dragon sniffs freedom

Today in Llandudno, Plaid Cymru winds up its annual conference with an unresolved dilemma hanging over Welsh nationalism. For despite desperate, even heroic efforts, the party, founded in 1925 to protect the Welsh language and culture, seems unable to break out of its fortress in the rural north and west.

Areas such as the blindingly beautiful Llyn Peninsula and Snowdonia may embrace nationalism, but in the heavily populated south, the party's appeal ranges from limited to almost non-existent. The nadir came on 16 May 1991 at the Monmouth by-election when the Plaid candidate with tacit Green Party support polled 277 votes to Screaming Lord Sutch's 314.

Since then, helped by the fact that Conservative support in Wales was in freefall, the nationalists have made a recovery, of sorts. They outperformed the Tories at the 1994 by-elections by 162,478 votes to 138,323. And in last year's local government poll, 22 new unitary authorities covering the whole of Wales were set up, Plaid won 113 councillors.



More than half of Wales wants devolution. But can Plaid Cymru draw the votes? By Tony Heath

That's the good news. The bad news for nationalists is that in racing terms, Labour won both contests by a distance, taking all five Euro seats with 530,749 votes and romping home west of Offa's Dyke with 731 councillors.

Dependence on the language vote is made evident by the fact that Gwynedd, which includes Snowdonia and the Llyn, is the only local authority controlled by the nationalists. The county has 45 Plaid councillors, more than a third of the all-Wales total. Such facts undermine Plaid's claim to be "the party of Wales", a sobriquet failed to remain a Celtic spin-doctor's slogan, bearing in mind the loss of 20 deposits at the last general election.

In 1992 Plaid contested all 38 seats and returned four MPs, all from constituencies on the fringe of a Wales that is itself reckoned to be on the periphery by arrogant metropolitan opinion.

Dafydd Wigley, MP for Caernarfon and party leader, remains bullish about Plaid's prospects in the poll that matters most - the looming general election. "We have hopes of winning Carmarthen East

and Dinefwr from Labour and Ceredigion from the Tories," he ventures. The Clwyd seat, the safest of the Tories' decidedly shaky half dozen in Wales, is held by Rod Richards, the right-winger who earlier this year resigned as Welsh Office under-secretary following allegations of an extra-marital affair.

To the surprise of many, the blue rinses of the constituency - known as the Costa Geriatrica on account of the large number of retired people - helped Mr Richards see off a move to deselect him.

Plaid is defending a majority of 1,106 in Ynys Mon. Ceredigion promises a close four-way battle where the defending nationalist MP, Cynog Dafis, acknowledged to be Britain's greenest MP, has lost the support of the Green Party following a spat over fox-hunting.

The nationalists insist that devolution is a trump card. All parties except the Tories are committed in some shape or form to shifting power from London to Cardiff.

Events are beginning to move. Earlier this week BBC Wales published the findings of an opinion poll signalling a significant shift from the four-to-one rejection of devolution in 1979. Now just over half (55 per cent) of the sample of 1,000 questioned by Beaufort Research back the creation of an elected Welsh assembly. Some 28 per cent were against change, with 17 per cent undecided. Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, rejoices that 83 per cent of those questioned backed a referendum.

The preferred option - an assembly with fewer powers than those proposed by Labour for a Scottish parliament - is not to Plaid's taste. Mr Wigley calls for a four-question referendum - the status quo, Labour's plan, an assembly with law-making powers and full self-government within five years.

"If all we get is a 'yes' or 'no' question then it's a waste of time. When we see what's on offer we'll call a special conference to decide our position," he says.

But to many people, devolution is not the most important issue. Confronting the blight of a low-wage economy, buttress-

ing a stressed farming industry eight years away from the prosperity of the grain barons of East Anglia and repairing a social fabric ripped apart by the demise of coal-mining and other heavy industries take centre stage.

Dr Denis Balsom, a political analyst at the University of Wales, puts it like this: "Devolution is important but I can't help pointing out that some of the emphasis on it is to do with anti-government feeling. Nevertheless, coming from the four-to-one defeat of 1979 is an impressive turnaround."

This morning, Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, will address the Plaid Cymru conference. SNP support spreads more widely than Plaid's. Nationalism north of the border has twice triumphed in by-elections at Govan, a constituency as industrial as, say, the Pontypridd seat of Labour's Kim Howells. At the 1989 by-election Howells' Plaid opponent polled less than half the Labour vote. Once the SNP leader sits down today delegates are scheduled to debate prison reform. That may be an easier assignment than forming plans to break out of their own electoral confinement.

£10 BUYS A CHAIN CUTTER

He's chained up through his sensitive nose and made to walk on red hot plates, whilst the back of his legs are left in thrall to music. Onlookers snort him and force him to drink beer. Why? Because they're teaching him to 'dance' for tourists who pay to watch his agonising wait.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) rescues 'dancing bears' and takes them to sanctuaries where they can be free of pain and suffering. But we can't carry out our life-saving work without the support of people like you. Your gift of just £10, or whatever you can afford, will help cut the chains of innocent animals. So please send your donation today. He's counting on you.

YES, I WANT TO CUT THE CHAINS!

Please fill in the details below

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

How is my donation of £ _____

(Please make cheques payable to WSPA or complete the credit card details below)

Account/VISA/Mastercard/Discover/Amex/DAF QuantityCard please write on separate

Card No. _____ (If using Discover, please use the full number)

Expiry date _____ Today's date _____

Signature _____

Please send this completed form and your donation to: WSPA, Dept ALB9, Freeport, N26BA, Northampton, NN5 6BB. No stamp is needed.

THANK YOU. Registered Charity No. 282208

World Society for the Protection of Animals

كان من الأصل

market report / shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3964.1 -10.2

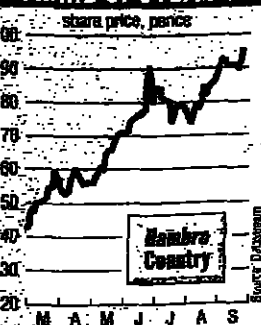
FT-SE 250
4428.2 -0.7

FT-SE 350
1877.4 -3.9

SEAQ VOLUME
744.6m shares,
41,183 bargains

Gills Index
93.31 -0.23

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



BTR's bye-bye to buying slowly wins back supporters

It looks as though BTR has won the argument. The new sell-not-buy strategy outlined by chief executive Ian Strachan when he presented the crucial half-year results has reversed the share slide and put much needed life into the 1995/96 warrants.

With the shares, on a dull day, up 2p to 382.5p, the warrants, down to 3p last month, put on 1.5p to 19p. The exercise price is 58p; they are back in the money.

For BTR the warrants are important. If fully exercised over the next few weeks they would produce an inflow of £240m, a welcome addition to the coffers of the hard-pressed conglomerate which is making provisions of £622m against disposals and slashing its yearly dividend.

For years the owners swept all before them. First Hanson, now admitting defeat and breaking up, and then BTR found their glory days had

gone. The rest of the stock market again drifted away from the seemingly elusive 4,000 points target for the FT-SE 100 index. Footsie ended 10.2 points lower at 3,964.1.

Ahead of the September futures expiry there was a rush of activity with Footsie climbing 19.8. Once the witching hour had ticked by the usual sell-off took place.

It was estimated that much of the day's 744.6 million share turnover was generated by the futures expiry.

The reduced influence of New York was again underlined as another strong Dow Jones Average performance was ignored.

The market got the big take-over bid it so desperately desired - not Zeneca, but Lloyds Abbey Life. The deal, which will value LAL at about £4.4bn did not, however, in the short term,



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

make much of an impact. Lloyds TSB, already claiming 62.6 per cent of LAL, is planning to offer a mixture of cash and shares. LAL gained 28.5p to 620.5p; at one time the shares were up 40p. Lloyds TSB fell 12.5p to 378.5p. The proposed deal rubbed off onto Legal & General, up 18p to 774p.

Zeneca enjoyed another busy session with the shares slipping 15p to 1,575p.

Many investors remain convinced that bid action will soon develop with Roche, the Swiss group, still the favourite to strike.

If Roche does start knocking

on Zeneca's door a counter-attack from Glaxo Wellcome would be a distinct possibility. The Regent Pacific attack on Hambros, the merchant bank, nudged the shares 2p higher to 262.5p. The Far Eastern break-up call lifted Hambros Countrywide, the estate agent where the bank has a 52 per cent interest, 5.5p to 95; the shares were 30p in October. Hambros Insurance Services, also controlled by the bank, was unchanged at 91.5p.

Asda lost a further 1p to 103.5p as the parliamentary ambitions of chief executive Archie Norman were confirmed. Signet, formerly Rat-

ners, fell 2.75p to 23p following the failure of its jewellery shops sale.

Mirror Group gained 9.5p to 222p as Pauline Gordon and Salomon Brothers circulated buy recommendations.

Heavy trading occurred in Rentokil with one deal of more than 7.5 million shares going through; the price dipped 9.5p to 432.5p.

BTG, following New York meetings, surged 197.5p to a 2,217.5p peak but many of the bio-babes wilted with Scotia off 24p to 613.5p and ML Laboratories 5p to 310p.

Alpha Airports edged forward 2.5p to 112p, with some chunky lines of stock going through. An asset sale or the takeover of Granada's 25 per cent interest are the stories flying around. A Canadian group is said to be keen to buy into the company.

Tom Cobleigh, the pubs chain, put on 4.5p to 233p

ahead of the expected bid, probably from Yates Brothers Wine Lodges. An upbeat trading statement lifted Greensall's pubs group 14.5p to 579p.

The cider "twins" had a sour session. H.P. Bulmer lost 19p to 517.5p and Matthew Clark's remorseless decline continued with a 7.5p fall to 350p. The other quoted cider maker, Merrydown, remains blissfully out of the firing line, thanks to its involvement in alcopops.

Atlas Converting, an engineer, jumped 105p to 757.5p following a 51 per cent profit gain and an upbeat trading statement. Pan Andean Resources rose 8p to 135.5p ahead of the expected Bolivian drilling report.

Edge Properties firmed up to 107.5p; it is buying Battery Retail Park, Birmingham, for £17.15m and raising £15.7m through a placing and open offer of 16.3 million shares at 100p.

TAKING STOCK

□ Mosaic Investments, the cash-rich vehicle of financier David Williams, is thought to be near to spreading its wings. Mr Williams has sold most of the group's rag-bag of interests and it now commands cash worth 38p a share. The price moved ahead 2.5p to 43.5p as some detected speculators were being flexed ahead of a deal.

□ Athelney, an AIM investment, held at 64.5p as a split between its sponsoring stockbroker, Dumbor Boyle & Kingsley, and its managing director, Robin Boyle, emerged. Mr Boyle, who created the trust as a vehicle for investing in small companies, has been ousted from DBK. Athelney is "reviewing" its contractual arrangements with the stockbroker which includes management of the trust's portfolio.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: ex-Brights x Ex-dividend x Ex-Alt x United Securities Market x Suspended x Partly Paid x Nil Paid Shares. * AIM Stock

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seag. Simply dial 0801 123 333, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0801 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FT-SE 100 - Real-time 00 Starting Rates 04 Investment Issues 39
UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares 39
UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40
Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0801 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 0171 875 4375 (9.30am - 5.30pm).

Calls cost 30p per minute (cheap rate), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Stock	Price	Chg	%	Stock	Price	Chg	%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Airways	180.00	+2.00	+1.1%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Petroleum	150.00	+1.00	+0.7%
Admiral	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	British Telecom	160.00	+1.00	+0.6%
Adrian	10.00	+0.10	+1.0%	British Virgin Islands	140.00	+1.00	+0.7%

Rolex Oyster
Able to survive even the shocks on this page

ROLEX
Ernest Jones
The Diamond and Watch specialists
Available nationwide
For information on your nearest store, please call 0800 300000

Surrey faces gloomy outlook

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

DAVID LEWIS

No room at the top for Hill claims Ecclestone

Motor racing
DERICK ALLSOP
reports from Estoril

Damon Hill reaches out for the world drivers' championship in tomorrow's Portuguese Grand Prix here knowing he has no hope of holding on to it. As all roads lead to the top teams closed to him, he was advised to quit or become a minder to his great rival's little brother.

The choice was presented by Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One's impresario and a man who has a handle on these things.

Even Ecclestone has been unable to manoeuvre Hill, sacked by Williams-Renault, into a drive which would give him a chance of retaining the title.

That leaves as the Englishman's best option Jordan, who yesterday conceded one of their seats for next season would go to Ralf Schumacher, the 21-year-old sibling of Michael. The irony of Hill partnering the new wunderkind from Kerpen would be a delightful twist to the sport's fiercest rivalry of recent seasons.

Ecclestone, relishing the irony, as well as the commercial

potential, said: "Damon could win the championship and retire. He might have to if all he wants is the chance to defend it, because unfortunately it looks as though he's not going to get that chance."

The only thing he could do at Jordan is help the team and young Schumacher. He would have to accept he might not be able to win a race, let alone the championship.

"That if it means sacrificing any chance of the championship, he would be giving something back to the sport. Williams have won a lot of things while he's been

there and he has 20 wins to show he's the best after Michael Schumacher."

Ecclestone could not resist a mischievous slur to the younger Schumacher's move to Jordan. "Damon could be doing what his own brother didn't want to do for him. Michael could have got him in at Ferrari but didn't."

As Michael points out: "It would be unfair for Ralf to be with me at Ferrari at this stage of his career. It is his first season and he needs to learn. Maybe later we can be together."

Hill, believed to be earning \$7m (£4.5m) this year and to

have asked Williams for \$15m next season, would probably have to settle for a maximum of \$3m at Jordan. Also in the bidding are Stewart-Ford.

McLaren-Mercedes and Ferrari have made it clear they have no job for him and Benetton-Renault have been quoted \$18m to buy Jean Alesi out of his contract, a figure that unsurprisingly appears to be proving prohibitive.

Hill, beaten to the championship by the older Schumacher for the past two seasons, said: "I thought the world could bear only one Schu-

macher but now there are two. I didn't know he had a brother till earlier this year."

Brazil's Rubens Barrichello has been released by Jordan and Martin Brundle has been offered work as their reserve driver, adviser and ambassador next season.

Against the backdrop of this hectic market place, Hill is completing his preparations for the day that ought to mark his championship success. Unless Jacques Villeneuve, his teammate, beats him by four points, the contest will be over.

Hill, second to Schumacher

in practice yesterday, was unhappy with the performance of his car but then Villeneuve managed only fifth fastest time.

PORTUGUESE GRAND PRIX (Results): Prost 1m 22.44s (1.4 Schumacher (2nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Villeneuve (3rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Barrichello (4th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Hill (5th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Brundle (6th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Alesi (7th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (8th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (9th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (10th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (11th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (12th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (13th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (14th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (15th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (16th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (17th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (18th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (19th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (20th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (21st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (22nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (23rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (24th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (25th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (26th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (27th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (28th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (29th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (30th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (31st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (32nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (33rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (34th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (35th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (36th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (37th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (38th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (39th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (40th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (41st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (42nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (43rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (44th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (45th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (46th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (47th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (48th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (49th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (50th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (51st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (52nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (53rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (54th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (55th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (56th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (57th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (58th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (59th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (60th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (61st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (62nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (63rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (64th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (65th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (66th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (67th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (68th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (69th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (70th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (71st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (72nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (73rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (74th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (75th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (76th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (77th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (78th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (79th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (80th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (81st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (82nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (83rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (84th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (85th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (86th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (87th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (88th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (89th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (90th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (91st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (92nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (93rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (94th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (95th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (96th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (97th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (98th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (99th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (100th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (101st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (102nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (103rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (104th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (105th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (106th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (107th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (108th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (109th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (110th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (111th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (112th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (113th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (114th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (115th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (116th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (117th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (118th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (119th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (120th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (121st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (122nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (123rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (124th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (125th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (126th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (127th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (128th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (129th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (130th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (131st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (132nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (133rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (134th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (135th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (136th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (137th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (138th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (139th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (140th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (141st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (142nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (143rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (144th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (145th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (146th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (147th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (148th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (149th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (150th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (151st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (152nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (153rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (154th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (155th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (156th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (157th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (158th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (159th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (160th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (161st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (162nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (163rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (164th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (165th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (166th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (167th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (168th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (169th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (170th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (171st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (172nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (173rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (174th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (175th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (176th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (177th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (178th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (179th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (180th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (181st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (182nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (183rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (184th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (185th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (186th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (187th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (188th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (189th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (190th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (191st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (192nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (193rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (194th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (195th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (196th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (197th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (198th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (199th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (200th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (201st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (202nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (203rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (204th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (205th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (206th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (207th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (208th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (209th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (210th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (211st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (212nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (213rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (214th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (215th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (216th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (217th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (218th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (219th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (220th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (221st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (222nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (223rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (224th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (225th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (226th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (227th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (228th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (229th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (230th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (231st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (232nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (233rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (234th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (235th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (236th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (237th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (238th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (239th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (240th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (241st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (242nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (243rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (244th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (245th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (246th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (247th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (248th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (249th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (250th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (251st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (252nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (253rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (254th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (255th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (256th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (257th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (258th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (259th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (260th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (261st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (262nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (263rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (264th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (265th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (266th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (267th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (268th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (269th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (270th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (271st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (272nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (273rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (274th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (275th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (276th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (277th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (278th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (279th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (280th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (281st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (282nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (283rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (284th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (285th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (286th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (287th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (288th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (289th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (290th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (291st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (292nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (293rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (294th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (295th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (296th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (297th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (298th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (299th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (300th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (301st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (302nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (303rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (304th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (305th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (306th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (307th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (308th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (309th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (310th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (311st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (312nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (313rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (314th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (315th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (316th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (317th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (318th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (319th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (320th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (321st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (322nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (323rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (324th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (325th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (326th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (327th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (328th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (329th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (330th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (331st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (332nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (333rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (334th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (335th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (336th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (337th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (338th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (339th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (340th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (341st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (342nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (343rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (344th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (345th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (346th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (347th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (348th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (349th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (350th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (351st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (352nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (353rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (354th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (355th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (356th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (357th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (358th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (359th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (360th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (361st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (362nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (363rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (364th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (365th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (366th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (367th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (368th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (369th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (370th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (371st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (372nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (373rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (374th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (375th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (376th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (377th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (378th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (379th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (380th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (381st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (382nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (383rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (384th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (385th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (386th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (387th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (388th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (389th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (390th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (391st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (392nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (393rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (394th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (395th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (396th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (397th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (398th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (399th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (400th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (401st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (402nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (403rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (404th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (405th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (406th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (407th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (408th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (409th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (410th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (411st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (412nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (413rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (414th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (415th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (416th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (417th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (418th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (419th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (420th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (421st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (422nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (423rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (424th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (425th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (426th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (427th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (428th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (429th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (430th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (431st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (432nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (433rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (434th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (435th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (436th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (437th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (438th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (439th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (440th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (441st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (442nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (443rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (444th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (445th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (446th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (447th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (448th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (449th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (450th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (451st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (452nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (453rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (454th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (455th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (456th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (457th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (458th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (459th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (460th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (461st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (462nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (463rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (464th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (465th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (466th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (467th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (468th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (469th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (470th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (471st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (472nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (473rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (474th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (475th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (476th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (477th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (478th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (479th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (480th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (481st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (482nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (483rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (484th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (485th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (486th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (487th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (488th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (489th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (490th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (491st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (492nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (493rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (494th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (495th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (496th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (497th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (498th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (499th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (500th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (501st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (502nd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (503rd) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (504th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (505th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (506th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (507th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (508th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (509th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (510th) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (511st) 1m 22.44s (1.4 Agazzi (512nd) 1m 22

Cup clues lead to Wildwood

Racing
GREG WOOD

When Parliament is unanimous on an issue, someone once said, it is invariably wrong, and it is a dictum which might prove to apply equally well to this afternoon's **AYR Gold Cup**. Among the training fraternity, there seemed little doubt yesterday that a high draw is essential in order to stand any chance of success in Europe's richest sprint handicap. Punters, however, would be wise to treat this prediction with caution.

In most of the big sprint handicaps, such as the **Wokingham** and the **Stewards' Cup**, a "good" draw is simply one near the early pace, and thus impossible to predict from year to year. At **Ayr**, however, there is a perception that a stall near the stands' rail will always be preferable to one on the far side, and indeed, in three of the last four years, the winners have been drawn 27, 29 and 28.

Delve a little further into the past, though, and you will find that the last 10 winners include runners from stalls four, six (twice) and eight (twice).

This is not to say that Coastal Bluff, the hot favourite this afternoon and drawn 28, will be in any way disadvantaged, but nor is he likely to enjoy any positive benefits either. The crucial point in all this is that Coastal Bluff's morning odds of around 5-1 reflect the belief that he is an ideal position, and thus represent poor value for the season alone. For all the ease of his win in the **Stewards' Cup** he now has a handicap mark to match, almost a stone higher than it was at Goodwood, and today's race is perhaps more competitive still.

Deciding to overlook the favourite is easy. So too is finding a good alternative - there are at least a dozen, not least because there should be pace on both sides of the track, thanks to **Bollin Joanne** (drawn five), **Belhurstpark Flyer** (18) and **Tiler** (17). The vast majority of today's runners are fairly weighted and at the peak of

their form. What few can claim to possess, though, is significant scope for improvement, and here perhaps there is a window of opportunity for punters.

Double Splendour, Double Bounce, Wildwood Flower and, admittedly, Coastal Bluff are four runners who appear to have better still to come, but one further statistic reduces the list to one name.

Fillies and mares often make rapid progress in the autumn, and have accounted for four of the last five winners of today's race. Given that today's quota of six females in a 29-runner field is probably typical, this cannot be a mere statistical blip, a fact which makes **WILDWOOD FLOWER** (nap 4.15) a strong selection.

Richard Hannon's three-year-old has improved throughout the season, running her best race so far at Goodwood last time out. Backed down to 10-1 earlier this week, she has drifted to 18-1 (widely available) at

ter drawing stall two, but as we have seen, this is no reason to discount her. She has an outstanding chance.

Do not be tempted, though, to double up with anything in the Silver Cup, a lower-grade race which is therefore even harder to assess. Look instead to another progressive sort, **Indian Reef Stakes** (next best 3.40) in the Mill Reef Stakes, the feature race at Newbury.

The richest race of the day by far is the National Stakes at the Curragh, Europe's most valuable juvenile event of the entire season. Sahm and Fantastic Fellow, both supplemented this week, lead a four-strong British challenge. The Irish St. Leger too has drawn several raiders to take on last week's Doncaster St. Leger flop **Gord**, including **Possidona**, whose trainer, Paul Cole, saddled last year's winner, **Strategic Choice**.

Deciding to overlook the favourite is easy. So too is finding a good alternative - there are at least a dozen, not least because there should be pace on both sides of the track, thanks to **Bollin Joanne** (drawn five), **Belhurstpark Flyer** (18) and **Tiler** (17). The vast majority of today's runners are fairly weighted and at the peak of

their form. What few can claim to possess, though, is significant scope for improvement, and here perhaps there is a window of opportunity for punters.

Double Splendour, Double Bounce, Wildwood Flower and, admittedly, Coastal Bluff are four runners who appear to have better still to come, but one further statistic reduces the list to one name.

Fillies and mares often make rapid progress in the autumn, and have accounted for four of the last five winners of today's race. Given that today's quota of six females in a 29-runner field is probably typical, this cannot be a mere statistical blip, a fact which makes **WILDWOOD FLOWER** (nap 4.15) a strong selection.

Richard Hannon's three-year-old has improved throughout the season, running her best race so far at Goodwood last time out. Backed down to 10-1 earlier this week, she has drifted to 18-1 (widely available) at

ter drawing stall two, but as we have seen, this is no reason to discount her. She has an outstanding chance.

Do not be tempted, though, to double up with anything in the Silver Cup, a lower-grade race which is therefore even harder to assess. Look instead to another progressive sort, **Indian Reef Stakes** (next best 3.40) in the Mill Reef Stakes, the feature race at Newbury.

The richest race of the day by far is the National Stakes at the Curragh, Europe's most valuable juvenile event of the entire season. Sahm and Fantastic Fellow, both supplemented this week, lead a four-strong British challenge. The Irish St. Leger too has drawn several raiders to take on last week's Doncaster St. Leger flop **Gord**, including **Possidona**, whose trainer, Paul Cole, saddled last year's winner, **Strategic Choice**.

Deciding to overlook the favourite is easy. So too is finding a good alternative - there are at least a dozen, not least because there should be pace on both sides of the track, thanks to **Bollin Joanne** (drawn five), **Belhurstpark Flyer** (18) and **Tiler** (17). The vast majority of today's runners are fairly weighted and at the peak of

their form. What few can claim to possess, though, is significant scope for improvement, and here perhaps there is a window of opportunity for punters.

Double Splendour, Double Bounce, Wildwood Flower and, admittedly, Coastal Bluff are four runners who appear to have better still to come, but one further statistic reduces the list to one name.

Fillies and mares often make rapid progress in the autumn, and have accounted for four of the last five winners of today's race. Given that today's quota of six females in a 29-runner field is probably typical, this cannot be a mere statistical blip, a fact which makes **WILDWOOD FLOWER** (nap 4.15) a strong selection.

Richard Hannon's three-year-old has improved throughout the season, running her best race so far at Goodwood last time out. Backed down to 10-1 earlier this week, she has drifted to 18-1 (widely available) at

AYR

1.55 JACKSON FALLS
2.25 HAWK
3.05 INDIAN RELATIVE (nap) 5.15 Champagne Grandy
3.35 Desert Shot (nb)

GOING: Good to Firm. **STALLS:** Straight course - stands side remainder - outside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** High numbers probably best for 61 & 62.
Left-hand gallop: outside.
Reversion: In case of the town on the A75, Ayr rail station (service from Glasgow) 1m. **ADMISSIONS:** Club 50p; Grandstand 5.10 (OAPs half-price). **CAR PARK:** Free.

1.55 EBF TOP FLIGHT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000
added 2Y0 1m Penalty Value £4,347

2.25 SAM HALL AND DICK PEACOCK NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £8,000
added 2Y0 6f Penalty Value £4,688

3.05 LADBROKE Ayr Silver Cup (HANDICAP) (CLASS C4)
£15,000 added 6f Penalty Value £12,428

4.15 LADBROKE Ayr Gold Cup (HANDICAP) (CLASS C4)
£20,000 added 1m 3f Penalty Value £13,630

2.40 COURAGE HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000
added 1m 2f Penalty Value £16,643

3.40 BONUSPRINT MILL REEF STAKES (CLASS A)
(Group 2) £35,000 2Y0 6f Pen Value £33,085

4.40 EBF HARWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000
added 2Y0 6f Penalty Value £4,198

5.30 BROUGH PARK HANDICAP (CLASS F)
£3,450 added 7f

6.30 NATIONAL STAKES (Group 1) £182,000
added 2Y0 6f

7.30 NEWBURY
2.10: PHANTOM QUEST, a creditable second in a race at Sandown last time, will have no problems with an extra furlong here. Red Cavalry, who beat Close Relative by an easy four lengths over six furlongs at Chester, may prove the chief threat.

3.40: SEBBE, about a length third subsequent to Group One One Mile Stakes at Sandown last time, should extend his winning sequence. The fairly trained Midway Blue may pose most problems.

4.15: Coastal Bluff won the Stewards' Cup with such authority that he is difficult to oppose. But his odds will be far from generous this time. At longer odds is steeplechase **FOR THE PRESIDENT**, who was poorly down at Goodwood but has had better luck this time and is far better off at the weights.

4.45: DEANO'S BEENO can continue Mark Johnston's fine run.

5.30: BALLYNAKELLY, who beat last Thursday's easy Yarmouth winner Jishy by a comfortable 1 1/2 lengths at Sandown last time, should extend his winning sequence. The fairly trained Midway Blue may pose most problems.

6.30: NATIONAL STAKES (Group 1) £182,000 added 2Y0 6f

7.30: NEWBURY
2.10: PHANTOM QUEST, a creditable second in a race at Sandown last time, will have no problems with an extra furlong here. Red Cavalry, who beat Close Relative by an easy four lengths over six furlongs at Chester, may prove the chief threat.

HYPERION

1.55 JACKSON FALLS
2.25 HAWK
3.05 INDIAN RELATIVE (nap) 5.15 Champagne Grandy
3.35 Desert Shot (nb)

GOING: Good to Firm. **STALLS:** Straight course - stands side remainder - outside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** High numbers probably best for 61 & 62.
Left-hand gallop: outside.
Reversion: In case of the town on the A75, Ayr rail station (service from Glasgow) 1m. **ADMISSIONS:** Club 50p; Grandstand 5.10 (OAPs half-price). **CAR PARK:** Free.

1.55 EBF TOP FLIGHT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000
added 2Y0 1m Penalty Value £4,347

2.25 SAM HALL AND DICK PEACOCK NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £8,000
added 2Y0 6f Penalty Value £4,688

3.05 LADBROKE Ayr Silver Cup (HANDICAP) (CLASS C4)
£15,000 added 6f Penalty Value £12,428

4.15 LADBROKE Ayr Gold Cup (HANDICAP) (CLASS C4)
£20,000 added 1m 3f Penalty Value £13,630

2.40 COURAGE HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000
added 1m 2f Penalty Value £16,643

3.40 BONUSPRINT MILL REEF STAKES (CLASS A)
(Group 2) £35,000 2Y0 6f Pen Value £33,085

4.40 EBF HARWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000
added 2Y0 6f Penalty Value £4,198

5.30 BROUGH PARK HANDICAP (CLASS F)
£3,450 added 7f

6.30 NATIONAL STAKES (Group 1) £182,000
added 2Y0 6f

7.30 NEWBURY
2.10: PHANTOM QUEST, a creditable second in a race at Sandown last time, will have no problems with an extra furlong here. Red Cavalry, who beat Close Relative by an easy four lengths over six furlongs at Chester, may prove the chief threat.

3.40: SEBBE, about a length third subsequent to Group One One Mile Stakes at Sandown last time, should extend his winning sequence. The fairly trained Midway Blue may pose most problems.

4.15: Coastal Bluff won the Stewards' Cup with such authority that he is difficult to oppose. But his odds will be far from generous this time. At longer odds is steeplechase **FOR THE PRESIDENT**, who was poorly down at Goodwood but has had better luck this time and is far better off at the weights.

4.45: DEANO'S BEENO can continue Mark Johnston's fine run.

5.30: BALLYNAKELLY, who beat last Thursday's easy Yarmouth winner Jishy by a comfortable 1 1/2 lengths at Sandown last time, should extend his winning sequence. The fairly trained Midway Blue may pose most problems.

6.30: NATIONAL STAKES (Group 1) £182,000 added 2Y0 6f

7.30: NEWBURY
2.10: PHANTOM QUEST, a creditable second in a race at Sandown last time, will have no problems with an extra furlong here. Red Cavalry, who beat Close Relative by an easy four lengths over six furlongs at Chester, may prove the chief threat.

STAKES DOONSDALE CUP (CLASS A) (Listed race)

1.55 JACKSON FALLS
2.25 HAWK
3.05 INDIAN RELATIVE (nap) 5.15 Champagne Grandy
3.35 Desert Shot (nb)

GOING: Good to Firm. **STALLS:** Straight course - stands side remainder - outside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** High numbers probably best for 61 & 62.
Left-hand gallop: outside.
Reversion: In case of the town on the A75, Ayr rail station (service from Glasgow) 1m. **ADMISSIONS:** Club 50p; Grandstand 5.10 (OAPs half-price). **CAR PARK:** Free.

1.55 EBF TOP FLIGHT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000
added 2Y0 1m Penalty Value £4,347

2.25 SAM HALL AND DICK PEACOCK NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £8,000
added 2Y0 6f Penalty Value £4,688

3.05 LADBROKE Ayr Silver Cup (HANDICAP) (CLASS C4)
£15,000 added 6f Penalty Value £12,428

4.15 LADBROKE Ayr Gold Cup (HANDICAP) (CLASS C4)
£20,000 added 1m 3f Penalty Value £13,630

2.40 COURAGE HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000
added 1m 2f Penalty Value £16,643

3.40 BONUSPRINT MILL REEF STAKES (CLASS A)
(Group 2) £35,000 2Y0 6f Pen Value £33,085

4.40 EBF HARWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000
added 2Y0 6f Penalty Value £4,198

5.30 BROUGH PARK HANDICAP (CLASS F)
£3,450 added 7f

6.30 NATIONAL STAKES (Group 1) £182,000
added 2Y0 6f

7.30 NEWBURY
2.10: PHANTOM QUEST, a creditable second in a race at Sandown last time, will have no problems with an extra furlong here. Red Cavalry, who beat Close Relative by an easy four lengths over six furlongs at Chester, may prove the chief threat.

3.40: SEBBE, about a length third subsequent to Group One One Mile Stakes at Sandown last time, should extend his winning sequence. The fairly trained Midway Blue may pose most problems.

4.15: Coastal Bluff won the Stewards' Cup with such authority that he is difficult to oppose. But his odds will be far from generous this time. At longer odds is steeplechase **FOR THE PRESIDENT**, who was poorly down at Goodwood but has had better luck this time and is far better off at the weights.

4.45: DEANO'S BEENO can continue Mark Johnston's fine run.

5.30: BALLYNAKELLY, who beat last Thursday's easy Yarmouth winner Jishy by a comfortable 1 1/2 lengths at Sandown last time, should extend his winning sequence. The fairly trained Midway Blue may pose most problems.

6.30: NATIONAL STAKES (Group 1) £182,000 added 2Y0 6f

7.30: NEWBURY
2.10: PHANTOM QUEST, a creditable second in a race at Sandown last time, will have no problems with an extra furlong here. Red Cavalry, who beat Close Relative by an easy four lengths over six furlongs at Chester, may prove the chief threat.

28
SPORT

'The longer I spend at Bath, the greater the similarities with Wigan become. Every time you go out to play, you face opponents ready to turn in the performance of their lives.'
CHRIS HEWETT talks to Jason Robinson, rugby union convert

SOLHEIM CUP: World No 1 revives home challenge after Americans make flying start on day of close encounters



Laura Davies lines up her putt on the 15th green during yesterday's foursomes of the Solheim Cup while (below) Europe's Alison Nicholas leads the search for an American ball

Photograph: David Ashdown

Rioch
rejoins
Houston
as No 2

Football

A peculiar reversal of roles yesterday saw Bruce Rioch return to football as assistant to the new Queen's Park Rangers manager Stewart Houston, his former No 2 at Arsenal.

Houston quickly underlined the new alignment. "I know what he'll give me as my assistant and I want to make that perfectly clear - I'm the manager and he's my assistant," he said. "We've spoken at length about the situation and we're both very comfortable with our roles."

Rioch, 49, agreed to take the position within hours of the offer being made yesterday, despite being linked with a series of vacant managerial posts, including Manchester City.

Houston, who only took charge of Rangers this week after resigning as Arsenal's caretaker-manager last Friday, said: "I had a very good working relationship with him for the past year at Arsenal and I know he'll bring to the club. His arrival shows QPR are an ambitious forward-thinking club. Bruce was out of work, so the opportunity arose for me to bring him in and he was delighted to accept."

Houston turned to Rioch after losing both Frank Sibley and Billy Bonds from the backroom staff at QPR within 48 hours of replacing Ray Wilkins. Only John Hollins remains from the old guard.

Manchester City, still looking for a manager, have signed Eddie McGoldrick from Arsenal on a month's loan and he could make his debut in today's game against Birmingham City at Maine Road. McGoldrick has not played in the Arsenal first team for over a year.

Another of the players Rioch and Houston left behind at Highbury, Nigel Winterburn, has been charged by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute following incidents during Monday's 4-1 win over Sheffield Wednesday.

The 32-year-old former England left-back is alleged to have made gestures towards Wednesday fans after Arsenal's second and third goals.

A Football Association spokesman said: "The player has been charged on the basis of reports filed by the referee Mike Reed and the fourth official, Paul Alcock."

Oldham Athletic have signed the 6ft 5in striker Ian Ormondroyd from Bradford City, but he was not registered in time for today's match against Barnsley.

Weekend preview, team news, page 27
Glenn Moore on Manchester City, page 26

Davies leads Europe's fightback



ANDY FARRELL
reports from St Pierre, Chesham

Laura Davies (who else?) led Europe back from the verge of annihilation in the fourth Solheim Cup match yesterday afternoon. Having lunch in quiet fashion after gleaning only half a point in the morning foursomes, the home side reclaimed some respectability to trail the Americans 5-3.

Davies and Trish Johnson gave Europe their first win with a 6 and 5 steamrollering of Pat Bradley and Kelly Robbins. Johnson, the European Open champion two weeks ago, was the steady hand that allowed Davies, winner of the English Open last week, to have a blast. "We ran into a buzz-saw in Laura," said Bradley. "She was not letting up."

The world No 1 started with three birdies, ended with three birdies, collecting seven of the

English pair's nine birdies in 13 holes. Davies almost hit the flag as she drove the green at the 309-yard eighth hole, and chipped in at the 11th. "Trish and I gelled from the start," Davies said. "I made a few putts early on, she came in and I finished it off."

After a morning session played in cold and blustery conditions when bogeys were more prevalent than birdies, the gallery of 9,765 was delighted to see the Europeans put the flag sticks under bombardment. "We were having a very quiet lunch time, all disappointed," Davies said. "And then Kathryn Marshall came in, put on a tape with loud music, and all of a sudden the mood changed."

Like Johnson, Marshall had not played in the morning, but combined with double US Open winner Annika Sorenstam to beat Val Skinner and Jane Geddes. The tape Marshall had put on in the team room was of

Snap's "We've got the power." "They all looked so serious," Marshall said. "I wanted to remind them that this was meant to be fun." A couple of monster putts from the Scot helped to build a three-up lead, but four birdies in five holes from Skinner and a timely first from Ged-

AFTERNOON FOURSOMES
Europe 2 1/2, US 2 1/2
Davies and Johnson 6 & 5; Sorenstam and Marshall 6 & 5; Neumann and Nilsmark lost to Dottie and King 1 down; Alison and Nicholas teamed with Meloni and Daniel
Score after first day, Europe 3 US 5

des at the 17th prolonged the agony.

A theme of the day was for matches to get to the last only for America to win. Sorenstam holed from five feet as the Europeans recorded a betterball 65. Europe had been up in all four matches for much of the after-

noon, but the Americans fought back as they had earlier. Dottie Pepper holed putts as if her life depended on it, as she does most things, and she and Betsy King reclaimed the 18th for the visitors against Lotta Neumann and Catrin Nilsmark. Then, Beth Daniel, whose second shot bounced back into the fairway off a tree, pitched and single putted to ensure a half in her game with Meg Mallon against Helen Alfredsson and Alison Nicholas.

Europe's captain, Mickey Walker, had stressed the importance of making a good start in the morning foursomes. Europe went to the turn up in two and down in only one, but the first whitewash in a series of Solheim Cup matches was only just avoided. "All the matches were very close," said Walker. "It's amazing in matchplay and team golf how quickly things can change."

None more so than in the top match. The Swedes, Sorenstam

and Nilsmark, went three up on Robbins and Michelle McGann at the eighth before the Americans responded with three birdies in a row from the 11th. They only picked up one hole, but pars were good enough to win the 15th and 16th. Both teams birdied the par-five last, Nilsmark holing from seven feet, Robbins from four. "I tried to think about all the times I've holed from that range in the past," Robbins said. "From three down, that was a great half."

As in the afternoon, all but one of the foursomes went to the 18th. The exception was Pepper and Brandie Burton's 2 and 1 win over Alfredsson and Neumann despite being two down after 10 holes. Burton, who sprained her right ankle earlier in the week, said she could have gone another 18 holes, but was rested by the US captain, Judy Rankin.

Davies's quick start in the afternoon may have had something to do with losing her unbeaten foursomes record with Nicholas to Patty Sheehan and Rosie Jones. Putting, Davies had said, would be the difference between the sides and the world No 1 missed three short ones.

Claar reaches a turning point

Struggling Brian Claar showed signs of a recovery by shooting his lowest round of an otherwise miserable year at the BC Open in Enaticot, New York.

Claar fired a five-under-par 66 in Thursday's first round for a one-stroke lead over a group of six players - last year's runner-up Jim McGovern, Brad Faxon, Tommy Tolles, Wayne Levi, Peter Jordan and Larry Rinker. Another nine players, including Tiger Woods, were two strokes off the pace on 68.

The BC Open marks Woods' fourth start since he turned professional. The amateur champion has improved his fin-

ish in each of his previous three events and has already earned more than half the money he needs to secure his 1997 PGA Tour playing privileges.

Woods, who finished fifth last week at the Quad Cities Classic after squandering a final-round lead, birdied his last two holes.

Claar's six-birdie, one-bogey round offered him some hope of a decent finish. He missed the cut seven times in his last eight tournaments in 1995 and has survived the cull only 10 times in 28 starts this year to languish in 153rd place on the money list. In a pleasant change from his

recent form, Claar hit 15 of the 18 greens, his only bogey coming at the par-five fifth hole where he overcut the green.

"I've shown signs of a pulse lately," Claar said. "You just have to tell yourself it's no big deal. Everyone has crummy years, but it's tough to erase nine months of bad golf. The good thing about this tour is you're only one week away from a good year."

Sweden's Jarmo Sandelin and German Alexander Cejka, the only two Europeans in the field, carded rounds of 73 to be seven shots behind Claar. Scores, Digest, page 27

Carson injured by freak kick

Racing
GREG WOOD

The career of Willie Carson, one of the most successful and popular jockeys in racing history, may have reached a sudden and agonising conclusion after a freak mishap in the parade ring at Newbury yesterday afternoon. Carson was kicked in the stomach as he attempted to mount Meshbed before the third race and sustained a liver injury, which will leave him hospitalised for at least two weeks. Last night, his condition was reported to be "stable, but not critical".

Selena Drage, a racegoer who witnessed the incident, said that Carson "was just approaching the horse when she swerved round and lashed out. It was a tremendous kick and he took the full force in his stomach. She must have flung him 15 feet."

The jockey, clearly in great pain, was taken to the North Hampshire Hospital in Bas-

ingstoke. "He has sustained an isolated injury to his liver," Mervyn Rees, the hospital's consultant liver surgeon, said last night. "The capsule of the liver had internal bleeding but this stopped by itself and at this stage it is not envisaged surgery will be required. The body protector he was wearing absorbed most of the impact and prevented more serious injury. He will remain in the department for not less than two weeks."

Carson, five times the champion jockey, will be 54 in November. He has hinted that this could be his last season in the saddle, and even before yesterday's injury, it has not been a campaign which he will remember with much affection.

He has ridden just 52 winners this year, and spent almost three weeks on the sidelines after being injured in a fall at Newmarket in July. To return to race-riding after his latest accident will be a severe test, even given Carson's famous resilience and determination. Racing, page 25

computing printing copying imaging

A fax with all the answers

Question: What kind of a machine is a combined fax and answerphone?

Answer: The Canon plain paper B110

For details call us free on 0500 246 246.

If anyone can Canon can.

Canon

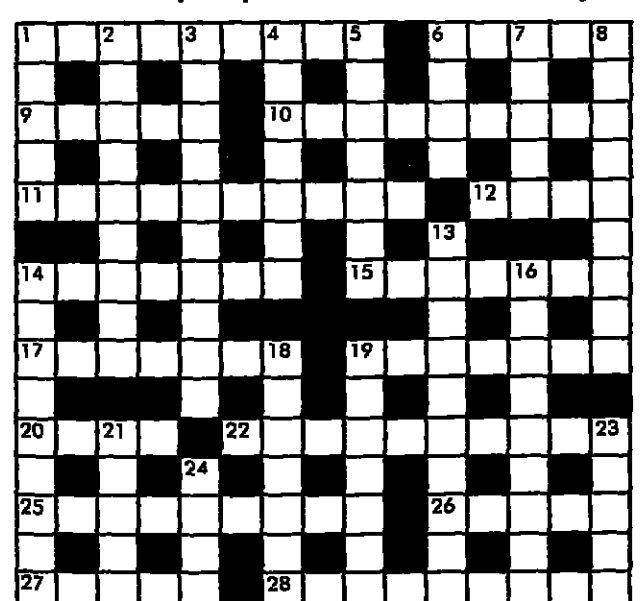
THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3098, Saturday 21 September

By Mass

ACROSS

DOWN



- 1 It's now or never, perhaps (9)
6 Attack verbally, be derisive about North (5)
9 Swallow third of soda water (5)
10 Sees Latin's translation key (9)
11 Carrying on with faceless arrogance (10)
12 Service only half the vehicle (4)
14 Beat counter drunkenly (7)
15 A fair lottery? (7)
17 Take exam, troubled about university place (7)
19 Screen for the eye against extremity of light (7)
20 Kitty fed by second stake (4)
22 Agree about English MSS, given backing in review (10)
25 John delights (it's said) in aimless situations (5,4)
26 Meets targets (5)
27 Time to separate and drift (5)
28 You won't get goals this way (9)

- 1 Liable to cut top off (5)
2 Thrashes around right and left in ship (9)
3 Striking unionist gets disturbed after first day? (10)
4 Table support, note, roping in remnants on Left (7)
5 Fail to benefit, investing little money in film (4,5)
6 All there? One group's short outside (4)
7 Line for party in trouble, mainly (5)
8 To get around's enough to vex Italian without a vehicle (9)
13 Not convenient? That's outrageous (10)
14 Light match first, one to try out the jet (4,5)
16 Light works from perfunctory postmaster (9)
18 Extract marrow (7)
19 Planes initially chartered will be diverted (7)
21 Wrap fish, tonnes hauled in (5)
23 Cross River Wye? (5)
24 One in the sea (i.e., the drink) (4)

The first five correct solutions opened next Thursday will receive an advance copy of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations published October 17. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, 2 O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners were: Mr & Mrs Rowell, Littleover; J Johnston, London E6; C Corcoran, Thornbury, Class For, Manchester; J Hildes, Farnley.

Friday's solution
Last Saturday's solution

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Press, 4 Alders Road, Walsley. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01908 440270. Started 21 September 1996. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.